COLORADO BIRD NOTES

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THE EMPIDONAX FLYCATCHERS

I - IDENTIFICATION OF MIGRANTS

by Donald M. Thatcher

No other group of birds gives us nearly so much difficulty in identification as the several species of the genus Empidonax, the smallest in the United States, with one exception, of our "tyrant flycatchers". The description, "small flycatcher, olive-green or olive-brown above and gray-white, tinged with yellow below, with whitish eye-ring and two whitish wing-bars", describes them all, especially those occurring in the Rocky Mountain region. Even the most expert observers seldom claim to be able to identify them by sight on appearance alone and some say it is impossible to do so. Many specimens in museums have never been identified as to species.

Distinctive songs and calls, readily identifiable nests and fairly definite habitat preferences generally permit certain identification of breeding birds, but in migration, when the greatest number of individuals are encountered, the birds are almost always silent and several species might occur in the same habitat. Furthermore, in the fall, the young of the year are considerably more yellowish than adults and most adults are then tinged more with yellow than they were in the spring. A description based on the yellowness of a species in the spring might well apply to another species in the fall. Birds seen in poor light are especially difficult to separate on color and on a bright day a bird seen under a thin canopy of light green foliage is sure to appear to be a shade or two more green or yellow than it is. All species average in length from about 5¼ inches for the smallest to 6 inches for the largest, a difference between the averages for the smallest and the largest species of only about 12 percent. Extremes for the group are perhaps 4 3/4 and 6 3/4 inches. The largest individuals of the smallest species are larger than the smallest of the largest species.

Even in migration these birds are largely solitary, so that two species are seldom seen together to be compared as to size or color. There is probably no more difference between the extremes in color and size within the whole genus Empidonax (at least for those species occurring in the United States) than there is within some single species of other groups of birds. Comparable differences in size or color between two species as found by one author may be the reverse of those given for the same two species in comparison by another; this is probably partly due to misidentification in the days before all the species known today had been collected and separated. Many of the observations and descriptions still quoted as authentic probably refer to the wrong species, as many specimens on which were based early classifications of these birds and many others (notably several misnamed warblers, as Cape May, Nashville, Tennessee and Magnolia) were migrants taken far from their breeding ranges and habitats.

Nine species of Empidonax occur in the United States and Canada. Six of these are found in Colorado, all but one breeding here. The nine species are, in A. O. U. order: Yellow-bellied Flycatcher (Empidonax flaviventris), Acadian (E. virescens), Traill's (E. trailli), Least (E. minimus), Hammond's (E. hammondi), Wright's (E. oberholseri) (formerly E. wrighti), Gray (E. wrightii) (formerly E. griseus), Western (E. difficilis) and Buff-breasted (E. fulvifrons). The Yellow-bellied and the Acadian have not been recorded nearer to Colorado than eastern Kansas and Nebraska, nor the Buff-breasted nearer than southern New Mexico and Arizona.

The name Empidonax is from the Greek and means "gnat-king" or "mosquito-king". Although some of the professional ornithologists emphasize the second syllable, according to at least two authorities it is pronounced em-pih-doe'-nax.(8,p.193 & 5)*

This article is based very little on personal experience, but almost entirely on the literature readily available to the writer, of which relative to some species there is very little. Perhaps the scarcity of information, as well as that of experience, is due to the fact that most of us have been inclined to give most attention to the more colorful birds and to ignore the little, plain-colored ones. It is written with two intentions: (A) to outline the slight differences between the species of Empidonax, as an aid in their possible identification, and (B) to emphasize the fact that migrating individuals, silent, non-nesting and generally not in their preferred breeding habitats, can seldom be identified specifically by the non-collecting amateur and thus cannot well be recorded or reported as other than "Empidonax flycatchers".

The Empidonax flycatchers are all almost entirely insectivorous and therefore of necessity are highly migratory. Practically all individuals spend the winter in Mexico or farther south, the Acadian wintering no farther north than Colombia. The only species wintering regularly in the United States is the Gray, which occurs infrequently north to about Pasadena, California and in southern Arizona. Hammond's winters in Mexico north to a few miles from the border and has been taken in Arizona in the winter. In the latitude of Colorado most come north in the latter part of May and have gone south by late September.

The following is a general description of all our species; specific differences and contrasts are described below with other comments on each species. Length: 5 to 6 inches. Upperparts: back, and top and sides of head, greenish-olive to brownish-olive; tail, grayish-brown; wings, dusky or dull black, with two whitish, yellowish-white or buffy bars (tips of greater and middle coverts); eye-ring, same color as wing-bars. Underparts: chest and sides pale olive-gray to pale grayish-brown; throat, belly and under tail coverts, grayish-white to yellowish, the throat less yellowish than the other regions. Bill: upper mandible, medium brown to blackish-brown; lower mandible, lighter than upper, dark brown to straw-yellow or flesh-colored, varying with the species. Eye: brown. Feet and legs: blackish.

Four somewhat similarly-colored flycatchers might be confused by the beginner with the Empidonax flycatchers in Colorado: Olive-sided Flycatcher, Eastern Phoebe, Eastern Pewee and Western Pewee. The Olive-sided is much larger (7¼ to 8 inches), with a larger head, no eye-ring nor wing-bars, dark olive-green sides separated by a conspicuous whitish stripe down the middle of the underparts and (sometimes concealed) a white tuft on the side of the lower back; it migrates on the plains frequently and nests in the upper foothills and the mountains. The Eastern Phoebe is somewhat larger and grayer than any of our Empidonaces (6½ - 7 inches), lacks the eye-ring (it has inconspicuous wing-bars) and has a peculiar tail-jerking habit; it is too rare, except perhaps in extreme eastern Colorado, to cause much confusion, but should be looked for. The two Pewees are very similar, like Empidonax indistinguishable from each other except by voice and nesting; they average slightly larger (6 - 6½ inches) than the largest western Empidonaces (extremes overlap), have inconspicuous wing-bars (more prominent in young birds) but no eye-ring, and a conspicuous white line separates the darker sides; the Western Pewee is a common migrant and breeder on the plains and nests commonly in the foothills, and the Eastern Pewee is a rare straggler or migrant on the plains. Extreme beginners might confuse the small flycatchers also with some of the other similarly - colored small birds, as the vireos, some warblers and the kinglets, and should become familiar with the characteristics of the flycatcher family before trying to identify further the species described here.

* Numbers in parentheses refer to references following text.

The following information covers mainly the general ranges of the several species of Empidonax occurring in the United States and the characters which might help identify them as silent migrants. Voices, habitats, nests and eggs, and nesting habits will be covered in another section.

The Yellow-bellied Flycatcher is the only eastern Empidonax that can be identified readily by color alone, and only in the springtime can that be done with reasonable certainty. Its underparts are decidedly yellow and it is the only eastern species having a yellow throat. In size, it averages about fourth smallest of the nine species (5.4 inches). It breeds in the Canadian zone coniferous forests of Canada and the Northeastern States, east of the Rockies.

The other entirely eastern species, the Acadian Flycatcher, averages largest of the nine (6 inches). It is a common breeder in hardwood forests of the Alleghenian (Transition) and Carolinian life zones of the east and southeast, being the only breeding Empidonax in all but the most northern parts of its range. It is perhaps greener and somewhat lighter than the other eastern species. This species received its common name in the early days when all of the genus Empidonax were thought to be one species. As the present "Acadian" never occurs in Nova Scotia (Acadia), presumably the more-recently-described Least and Traill's were responsible for the misnomer.

Our most widely distributed Empidonax is the Traill's Flycatcher, which breeds from coast to coast, north to Alaska and Labrador and south to Maryland, Kentucky, Texas and central Mexico. It is mainly a bird of the Transition life zone, where it breeds in shrubbery of various kinds. In Colorado it is most likely to be found in willows, along streams. Traill's Flycatcher has one distinguishing feature which might be diagnostic, if the bird can be seen well enough: the end of the tail is rounded, while those of the other species are "emarginate" (notched). Another helpful character is its light-colored lower mandible, which, if apparent, should distinguish it from all others except the Gray. (The under side of the lower mandible of several species is light-colored.) This species is considered to be more brownish than the others of the genus and its throat is whiter (less yellowish) than those of Yellow-bellied, Acadian, Least and Western. Traill's Flycatcher was divided about 40 years ago into an eastern - northern subspecies called the Alder Flycatcher (E. t. trailli) and a western one, called the Little Flycatcher (E. t. brewsteri) (although five of our eight other species of Empidonax are no larger), both of which were believed to breed in Colorado. Since that division was made, further subdivision has resulted in the naming of a total of at least seven races, based principally on subtle differences in color and largely substantiated by different ratios in the sizes and shapes of wings and lengths of tails and bills. At present, after much re-measuring, comparison and shuffling of specimens, there are considered to be five races, whose names and approximate ranges are: (A) E. t. brewsteri, the Pacific Northwest States; (B) E. t. trailli, Alaska, Canada, and Northeastern States; (C) E. t. adastus, northern Great Basin; (D) E. t. extimus, southern Great Basin and Great Plains and southwest desert region; and (E) E. t. campestris, northern and central Great Plains. All but (B) have been taken in Colorado; (C) and (D) are believed to breed here and (A) and (E) are considered to be only migrants (1,3,16).

The Least Flycatcher averages smallest of the four Eastern species of Empidonax (5.3 inches), but is larger than the Buff-breasted and perhaps Hammond's of the West. Its breeding range includes the Transition and much of the Canadian zones of the United States and Canada, east of the Rockies, where it is common in orchards and open woods. It is said (3, p. 224) to breed as near to Colorado as Cheyenne, Wyomming. Compared with the other Eastern species, it is grayer above: less greenish than Yellow-bellied and Acadian, and less brownish than Traill's. The underparts are generally whiter than those of the other three, but the throat is less white than that of Traill's. Compared with the Western species with which it might be confused in migration, as it occurs along the west edge of the Colorado plains, it should be extremely difficult to distinguish by plumage from Wright's and Gray,

but is whiter (less yellowish) than Western and Hammond's. The wing-bars are said to be whiter than those of the other eastern species and this probably applies to the western species as well.

Hammond's and Wright's Flycatchers are two relatively uncommon western mountain species of which too little is known, especially in the Rocky Mountain region. They are principally birds of the Canadian zone, extending some into the Transition, Wright's probably being found more commonly in the latter zone than is Hammond's. Thus, the range of Hammond's extends farther north (to southeast Alaska) while Wright's extends farther south, into New Mexico and Arizona, and farther east, to South Dakota. The Gray is another confusing western species, whose limited range is included within the ranges of Wright's and Hammond's. It is confined to the Great Basin - Southern Rocky Mountain region, north to Oregon and northern Colorado and south to northern Arizona. It prefers sagebrush (west) and pinon-juniper woodland, generally with sagebrush (east), in the Transition life zone. While Hammond's and Gray might be distinguished from each other by color Wright's is intermediate between the two, but has a longer tail which the experienced field observer might find helpful. The average size as given by most authorities makes Wright's the largest (5.8 inches; Gray, 5.5; Hammond's 5.3), but Grinnell (9) quoted by Bent (3, p.225) says Wright's is intermediate in size, probably basing his opinions entirely on California birds. Grinnell says further of the three: Hammond's is slatiest (blackish), Gray the ashiest, and Wright's intermediate (greenest above and below); Gray has the outer web of outer tail feather distinctly white, Wright's gray-white, Hammond's only slightly pale; the lower mandible of Hammond's is entirely black-brown, Wright's dull or light-brown, Gray black-brown at tip with basal two-thirds straw-yellow. This last character might well distinguish the Gray from all other Empidonaces except Traill's. In contrast with Grinnell, Peterson (14, p.116) and Packard (12, p.38) imply that Hammond's is more olive above and more yellowish below than Wright's. Davis (6, p.171) says the two "can be easily separated if a good view of the back is obtained. Hammond's has a short tail that is the same color as the back whereas Wright's has a long tail that is brown in contrast to the olive-gray back. Indeed Wright's Flycatcher resembles a miniature Crested Flycatcher (Myiarchus crinitus)". Examination, without measurements, of the 17 specimens of Hammond's in the collection of the Denver Museum of Natural History, in comparison with the other species (except Buff-breasted) indicates that the bill of Hammond's is shorter and narrower than those of the others; this probably would not be apparent in the field. Dawson and Bowles (7), in Bent (3, p.203) compare four western species as follows: Traill's, brownish; Western, yellowish-green (see below); Hammond's, blackish; Wright's, grayish-dusky. Bowles and Decker (4) in Bent (3, p.232) describe Hammond's as "dusky-backed, sooty-breasted and short-tailed (resembles most a small Pewee)" and Wright's as "gray-backed, light-breasted and long-tailed". (To add to the confusion: - Note that the term "dusky" is used by Bowles to apply first to Wright's, then to Hammond's. One authority (18, p.47) is using the common name Dusky Flycatcher for Wright's, presumably in accordance with the new A. O. U. check-list, now in printing. Also, the specific term "wrightii" is now applied to the Gray - formerly E. griseus - as the "type specimen" for Wright's has turned out to be a Gray. (2, p.360).)

The Western Flycatcher is most numerous of the western species and has the widest range, breeding from southeastern Alaska to northern Mexico and from the Pacific Coast east to South Dakota and western Texas. It is more yellowish than the other western species, so yellowish, in fact, that it was long considered to be the same species as the eastern Yellow-bellied, from which, however, differences in feathering show it to be quite distinct. The yellowness of the throat should help identify it, especially in the spring, but in fall, when the other species are more yellowish, this feature should not be relied upon too heavily.

Smallest (5.0 inches) of the genus Empidonax in the United States is the Buff-breasted Flycatcher, a Mexican species, a race of which (E. f. pygmaeus) occurs infrequently in the mountains of southwestern New Mexico and southeastern Arizona, where it breeds in the oak-pine forest of the Upper Sonoran zone. It resembles the

other species of Empidonax, but is generally buffy, especially the breast, and is more readily identified than the others.

Summary - The nine species of small flycatchers of the genus Empidonax occurring in the United States are extremely difficult, if not impossible, to identify in the field during migration, without knowledge of their voices, nesting or breeding habitats. Each species has one or more characters which might be diagnostic or helpful in comparing two birds of different species seen together. For the four species of the East, these are: Yellow-bellied - yellowest, especially the throat; Acadian - largest, generally the greenest; Traill's - brownest, tip of tail rounded, lower mandible light-colored; Least - smallest, whitest below (except throat). The singular characters for the seven species occurring in the West are: Traill's - brownest, tail rounded; Least - whitest wing-bars and eye-ring; Hammond's - darkest, bill probably smallest; Wright's - longest tail, tail browner (slightly reddish) with pale outer edge, largest species; Gray - lightest colored, lower mandible lightest (basal two-thirds yellow), outer edge of tail white; Western - yellowest, including throat; Buff-breasted - smallest, buffiest. Without close observation in good light, most of these characters are uncertain and should not be relied upon except perhaps by observers who are familiar with and have identified the several species under breeding conditions. Generally migrating birds of this genus should be recorded and reported only as "Empidonax flycatchers".

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A late report (add to "Birds of the Month"):

Jean and Parnell White report Mountain Bluebirds, Feb. 10, a flock of about 30 and two others, between Parker and Franktown. (Last year's first, 2/3; 1955, 1/30).

WELDONA NOTES

by Howard Rollin

January 15, 1957 - All bird activity for the past month can be covered in a very few words: all birds except the Horned Lark are very scarce. The Rough-legged Hawk is still rare and has been seen only on my trips to Fort Morgan or to the neighbor's, 1 1/3 and 2 1/12 being the latest noted. The Marsh Hawk is here also in small numbers and has been seen only on those trips. Prairie Falcon, 4 12/21 seen during trip to town, none since. Golden Eagles are seen nearly every day and can be considered common. Horned Larks are here commonly every day; 150-200 1/3 and 40-50 1/11 were the most seen. Longspurs in small numbers are associated with the larks. Blue Jays were heard calling in Fort Morgan, 1/3. The Gray Shrike is rare and not wintering here at the place this year, but is seen in several places about the country; 1 12/21, 25, 26 here and 2 on trip 1/11, one pursuing a Horned Lark. Starlings seen on trips, 2 12/21 and 1/11. Western Meadowlarks are scarce here; most seen on trips to town. A few Pink-sided and Montana Oregon Juncos remain here, associating with the Tree Sparrows; Tree Sparrows seen daily, 6 or 8 to 30 and 25-30 near Fort Morgan 1/11 were the most seen.

February 1, 1957 - The past two weeks have been poor for bird life; no doubt the very cold weather has had its usual effect. The coldest noted here was 10 below zero, January 25, but other places were much colder. Snowfall was light and the usual winds were absent. The only sign that spring may not be far off was a flock of 16 Canada Geese, 1/30. Golden Eagles, Marsh Hawks and occasional Rough-legged Hawks are seen most days; four eagles 1/28, two near Fort Morgan; four Marsh Hawks 1/19 on trip to town. Red-shafted Flicker, 2 1/28, town trip. Horned Larks are still the most common bird; flocks of up to 150 are seen on trips to town. Among them are a few Lapland Longspurs, which are uncommon this year. Two Crows, rare here in winter, were seen 1/19. The Gray Shrike has been more frequent lately, both along the roads and here at the house; one is now wintering here and feeding on the Tree Sparrows, as mice are scarce. Starlings, 15-20 1/28. House Sparrows, none here, but saw 25 or 30 1/28, trip to town. Western Meadowlarks still few 20-25 being seen on trips. Oregon Juncos and Tree Sparrows are about as reported last month (above).

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BIRDS OF THE MONTH

by Donald M. Thatcher

February 19, 1957 - This winter continues to be one of unusual interest for birders, with continued reports of unusual species or unusual winter occurrences or scarcities of common species. Despite the unusually long, cold spell of the last week or ten days of January, there seems to be early migration of several species, as Ducks, Robins, Mountain Chickadee; some of the unusual records may be the result of the extreme cold.

This month's Bird of the Month is a Varied Thrush, seen by Mrs. Estella McCutcheon, at her feeder, at Fort Morgan (reported to us by Edward Hellstern and Howard Rollin) several times daily, January 15 to 23 (date reported). This northwestern species is not unknown in Colorado, but reports are very few. Bent ("Life Histories of North American Thrushes, Kinglets and Their Allies") says it has been found in migration (usually in company with robins) in Colorado, Nebraska, Kansas, Wyoming and New Mexico, but gives no specific occurrences. It has also been seen or taken in the East (Quebec, New York, New Jersey and Massachusetts) eight times between 1851 and 1951. Perhaps more attention to the many flocks of robins in migration or winter would discover more strays of this species.

Last month's remarks on Evening Grosbeak, Pine Siskin, Lewis's Woodpecker,

Juncos, etc., still hold, except for the Rbbin. Reports from several places indicate a gradual build-up in numbers, starting in early January. (Fort Collins, Platteville, Boulder, Denver) Although only eight Robins had been found by four Christmas Counts north of Colorado Springs. By mid-January they were occurring daily, or nearly so, usually singly, and the first flock was reported January 27. The largest occurrence was two flocks of 200 and 250 near Fort Collins, February 10 (Douglasses). The writer found a small flock in the foothills at Genesee Mountain, February 17.

Following are listed reported unusual occurrences, unusual numbers and early migration dates. Contributors: Sophie Beneke, Ann Condit, Catherine Crone, Mary Crow, John & Margaret Douglass, Mrs. John Lett, Thompson Marsh, Estella McCutcheon, Sadie Morrison, R. J. Niedrach, Donald Thatcher, Ruth Woodward, * scheduled club trip.

Great Blue Heron - 1 2/3 Boulder Co. (CC)
Gadwall - 7 2/2 Bowles Lake (Littleton) (SM); 7 2/12 SE Denver (TM)
American Widgeon - 2 1/12 Loveland (J&MD); 40 2/2 Bowles Lake (SM); 31 2/12 SE Denver (TM); 2 2/17 Boulder vicinity (CC)
Pintail - 3 2/2 Bowles Lake (SM); 4 2/7 Platteville (Mrs.JL); 20 2/17 Boulder vicinity (CC)
Wood Duck - pair 1/21, last seen 2/16 Bowles L. (J&PW); pair 2/2 Bowles L. (SM)
Canvasback - 125 2/17 Boulder vicinity (CC)
Redhead - 1 2/2 Bowles L. (SM); 550 2/17 Boulder vicinity (CC)
Lesser Scaup - 50 2/17 Boulder vicinity (CC)
American Goldeneye - 40 to 51 1/19, 26, 2/9 Estes Park (J&MD); A few others reported at Denver and vicinity.
Turkey Vulture - 1 2/17 Boulder (CC)
Peregrine Falcon - 1 1/12 near Loveland (J&MD)
American Coot - 16 2/2 Bowles L. (SM); 30 2/17 Boulder (CC)
Mourning Dove - 6 1/26 Cherry Creek Dam (Arapahoe Co.) *; 3 1/27 Littleton (RJN); 16 2/7, smaller numbers daily during January at Platteville (MRS.JL)
Yellow-bellied Common Sapsucker - male 1/29 & 30 at feeder, NW Denver (MC)
Lewis's Woodpecker - 3 3/20 Boulder Co. (CC)
Horned Lark - Huge flocks 1/22-27 during zero weather at feed lot. Small flocks before and after cold spell. Platteville (Mrs.JL)
Blue Jay - 2 1/30, 2/2 Platteville (Mrs.JL)
Common Raven - 1 2/17 Genesee Mtn. Park (Jefferson Co.) (Also about 115 Crows) (DT)
Mountain Chickadee - 1-4 1/25,31 2/11 SE Denver (TM) Regular in NW Denver until about 2/5, none since (DT)
Common Bushtit - 1-10 (average 7) on 8 days 1/24-2/11 at Cheeseman Park and near Mountain View Park SE Denver. Apparently 2 groups. (TM); 12 2/10 Red Rocks Park (DT)
Red-breasted Nuthatch - 1 1/25, 31 SE Denver (TM)
American Dipper - 27 in 1 mile of stream 1/26, 5 2/9 Estes Park (J&MD); 1 1/30 Cherry Creek at Grant St. (downtown Denver) (TM)
Townsend's Solitaire - 1 1/27 NW Denver (DT); 1 1/30, 2/11 SE Denver (TM); Few this winter in foothills and elsewhere.
Bohemian Waxwing - 42 1/12 Ft. Collins (J&MD); 200 1/27 Berkely Park (NW Denver) (DT, AC and others)
Cedar Waxwing - 50 1/21 NW Denver (RW); 4-5 2/5, 12 SE Denver (TM)
Gray Shrike - Numerous reports of 1-3 per day, Boulder, Loveland, Rocky Flats, Cherry Creek Dam, Fort Collins, Denver (City and Federal Center); 1-2 per week through January, Platteville (Fewer than in December) (Mrs.JL)
Loggerhead Shrike - 1 1/26 near Loveland (J&MD)
Common Starling - Many more than last year at feed lots, Platteville, January (Mrs.JL) 1 2/17 Mt. Vernon Canyon (Jefferson Co.) at elev. 6950. Has nested in same tree, but not previously reported at that elevation in winter (DT)
Western Meadowlark - 146 1/20, 74 2/3 Boulder Co. (CC); 75 2/1 near Platteville, smaller numbers daily (Mrs.JL); singing, near Denver 2/10 (DT)
Red-winged Blackbird - Thousands daily until 1/25, fewer since, Platteville (Mrs.JL)
Brewer's Blackbird - 1 1/19 Platteville (Mrs.JL)

Purple Grackle - 1 early January, Ft. Morgan (EM)
Cardinal - 1 1/15 Fort Morgan, first since 12/15 (EM)
Common Redpoll - Early January, Hillrose (SB)
Pine Siskin - 12 1/20 Boulder Co. (CC) (only report for month for this usually common bird)
Common Goldfinch - 89 (3 flocks) 1/20 Boulder Co. (CC)
Vesper Sparrow - 1 1/26 Ft. Collins (J&MD); 2 2/17 near Boulder (CC)
American Tree Sparrow - 104 1/20, 243 2/3 Boulder Co. (CC); 75 (3 flocks) 1/31 (smaller numbers daily) Platteville (Mrs.JL)
Harris's Sparrow - 2 1/20 Boulder Co. (CC)
White-crowned Sparrow - (Gambel's) 52 2/7 one flock Platteville (first seen 2/4), No Eastern White-crowns since 1/4 (Mrs.JL)

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HOW'S YOUR PRONUNCIATION ?

A number of ornithological terms and names that are frequently mispronounced are listed herewith. The correct pronunciations, according to the new Merriam-Webster Unabridged Dictionary, are given on page 53. What is your score?
Falcon; Fulmar; eyrie; Petrel; Egret; Scaup; Goshawk; Plover; Guillemot; Curlew; Dowitcher; Cuckoo; pileated; Bewick's; Prothonotary; Parula; Jabiru; Jacana; Merganser; Osprey; Pauraque; Skua; Vireo.

--from Bird Lore, Sept.-Oct. 1937

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MORE ON EMPIDONAX FLYCATCHERS

After completion of typing of the preceding write-up on identification of Empidonax flycatchers, an interesting study was found which serves further to compound the difficulty of identifying even the most distinctive species. Robert M. Mengel, in studying the Acadian and Yellow-bellied Flycatchers ("Certain Molts and Plumages of Acadian and Yellow-bellied Flycatchers", Auk 69:3 pp. 273-283, July 1952), finds that those two species are not as readily separated on the basis of relative yellowness of the underparts as had been supposed. Many fall migrant specimens taken in the South and long believed to be Yellow-bellieds have turned out to be Acadians; some of these have yellow throats, the character most depended upon for distinguishing the Yellow-bellied from all others. The failure of ornithologists 50 years ago to recognize the differences in color due to age and season is discussed. Mengel finds also that the Yellow-bellied often has both upperparts and underparts more greenish than those of the Acadian and says, "It is difficult to understand how the popular notion got started that the Acadian is the 'greenest of the Empidonaces'". This confusion is stressed here because it seems very likely that it might apply also, and perhaps more, to our Western Flycatcher (supposedly the yellowest western species) and the other Colorado species of Empidonax.

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BIRD TRIPS WITH COLORADO MOUNTAIN CLUB

We have scheduled a series of joint Saturday field trips with the Colorado Mountain Club, as follows:

March 30 - Plum Creek area, Sedalia. John Chapin, leader for Bird Club.
April 27 - Foothills west of Denver. John Flavin.
June 29 - Mount Audubon. Ferd Kleinschnitz.
July 20 - Loveland Pass. Donald Thatcher
August 17 - Barr Lake. Donald Thatcher
October 19 - Echo and Summit Lakes. Thompson Marsh.

All trips leave the Old Library at Civic Center, Denver, at 7 AM. Bird Club members and guests will not pay the Mountain Club trip fee.

CALENDAR FOR FEBRUARY - MARCH 1957

February

23 (Sat.) 1 PM Field trip to Genesee Mountain Park. Donald Thatcher, leader (GL5-7479) Meet at West Colfax & Sheridan Blvd. Transportation 50¢

26 (Tues.) 8 PM Regular meeting. Mr. Richard Beidleman of University of Colorado will give illustrated talk on "Plants and Anomals of Colorado, from Plains to Mountain Tops". Mr. Robert Glover will show some slides of birds of Florida and Colorado.
Bird Room, Denver Museum of Natural History
(North employees' entrance)

March

9 (Sat.) 1 PM Field trip to Red Rocks Park, Morrison and vicinity. Ruth Wheeler, leader (GL5-3924). Meet at W. Colfax & Sheridan Blvd. Transportation, 50¢.

17 (Sun.) 7 AM Field trip to Marston and Bowles Lakes. Donald Thatcher, leader (GL5-7479). Meet W. Colfax & Sheridan Blvd. Transp. 50¢

22 (Fri.) 8 PM Nature on the Screen - "Between the Tides", by robert C. Hermes. Phipps Auditorium, Denver Museum Natural History. Admission free.

26 (Tues.) 8 PM Regular Meeting. Bird Room, D. M. N. H.

30 (Sat.) 7 AM Joint field trip with Colorado Mountain Club. Plum Creek area west of Sedalia. John Chapin, leader (SK6-2200)
Meet at Old Library, Civic Center

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WINTER LECTURE PROGRAM - Phipps Auditorium, Denver Museum of Natural History. Sundays at 2:15 & 4:30 PM, Mondays at 6:30 & 8:30 PM. Balcony and unclaimed main floor seats free.

Feb. 24-25	Hawaii	Fran William Hall
March 3-4	The Spell of Ireland	John H. Furbay
March 10-11	Monument Valley Adventure . . .	Francis R. Line
March 17-18	North to Adventure (Alaska). . .	Fred Machatanz
March 24-25	Two Tickets to Timbuctoo . . .	Kenneth Richter
March 31 - April 1	The People of Denmark and Greenland	Hjordis kittel Parker

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BULLETIN AVAILABLE ON ELECTRICAL METHOD OF SPRINGING BIRD TRAPS

The Thorne Ecological Research Station announces publication of a bulletin by Oakleigh Thorne, II, describing an electrical method for springing non-automatic bird traps of all kinds. A simple solenoid mechanism is the basis for this method, and has been tested by the author for eight years. It has proved extremely successful in replacing the conventional pull-string method. Copies of the bulletin are available free of charge from THORNE ECOLOGICAL RESEARCH STATION, 1707 Hillside Road, Boulder, Colorado. Ask for Bulletin No. 4.

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PRONUNCIATION OF ORNITHOLOGICAL TERMS

The words listed on page 52 are pronounced as follows: Falcon - faulcon or faucon; Fulmar - fullmer; eyrie - airy or erie; Petrel - first syllable pet, not peet; Egret - ee'gret or egg'ret; Scaup - scawp; Goshawk - gosshawk; Plover - rhyme with cover or over; Guillemot - last syllable rhymes with hot; Curlew - kur'-lew; Dowitcher - first syllable rhymes with how; Cuckoo - cook'-oo; pileated - first, pile or pill; Bewick's - rhymes with the name of the motor car; Prothonotary - accented on the second syllable; Parula - accent first syllable; Jabiru - the a as in Japanese; Jacana - zha-sa-na', not Jaka'na; Merganser - accent second syllable; Osprey - second syllable i as in ill; Pauraque - pow-rah-kay; Skua - skew'-a; Vireo - not vy-reo.

COLORADO BIRD NOTES

Bulletin of the Colorado Bird Club

Vol. 4 No. 6 Denver, Colorado March 1957

BIRDS OF THE MONTH

by Donald M. Thatcher

March 20, 1957 - The spring migration is well under way, with most early migrant species appearing somewhat earlier than last year. Outstanding is the early migration of the Robin, which became apparent in mid-January and of both species of Bluebird and the Rock Wren. A swallow (unidentified as to species, probably Tree or Violet-green) was seen March 16 near Littleton (CR); our earliest swallow date in recent years is April 14. The movement of ducks is about as last year or perhaps a few days earlier. The Mountain Chickadee apparently left the plains for the mountains in early February; two years ago the birds wintering at the lower elevations stayed until early April (one and three years ago there were none on the plains). Red-winged Blackbirds were early in establishing breeding territories, in late January (RJN). Some observers have noted a scarcity of Buteos (Red-tailed and Rough-legged) in late February and March. The Pine Siskin is still scarce and there are no reports of the Evening Grosbeak since November. The flight of the Bohemian Waxwing, while not great in comparison with some of those of the past, is probably the most interesting feature of the winter on the plains.

Following are reported early dates for spring arrivals, possible last dates for some winter residents and a number of unusual occurrences. (See also club trip reports.) Contributors: Douglas Alexander, Catherine Crone, Mrs. Mary Crow, Larry Crowley, John and Margaret Douglass, Earl Ellis, Mrs. John Lett, L. Jack Lyon, Thompson Marsh, Mrs. Estella McCutcheon, R. J. Niedrach, Cal Royall, Donald Thatcher, Jean and Parnell White. * denotes scheduled club trip. (Correction: February CBN, page 51, date for Lewis's Woodpecker should be 1/20.)

Green-winged Teal - 27 2/17 City Park, Denver (TM); 12 3/2 Platteville (Mrs.JL); 2 3/10 Boulder (CC).
Cinnamon Teal - 1 4/17 Henry's Lake (W. of Littleton) *.
Ring-necked Duck - 12 2/23 Berkeley Park, Denver (TM); 1 2/28 Platteville (Mrs.JL).
American Goldeneye - 1 3/3 (40-50 last reported 2/9 had left) Estes Park (J&MD).
Bufflehead - 1 3/9 Marston Lake (DT).
Ruddy Duck - 2 2/24 Boulder (CC).
Common Merganser - 20 3/2 Platteville (Mrs.JL).
Red-breasted Merganser - 1 3/10 Boulder (CC); approx. 12 3/17 Marston Lake *.
Turkey Vulture - 1 2/24 Boulder (CC).
Sharp-shinned Hawk - 1 3/8, 14 SE Denver (TM).
Cooper's Hawk - 1 2/19, 20, 27, 3/7 SE Denver (TM); 1 3/3 Red Rocks Park (DT).
Bald Eagle - 3 2/16, 2 2/17 Loveland (J&MD); 1 3/7 Platteville (Mrs.JL).
Prairie Falcon - pair 2/23 at eyrie near Boulder (DA).
Killdeer - 4 2/16 Platteville (Mrs.JL); 8 2/24, 1 3/10 Boulder (CC).
Mourning Dove - 1 2/17, 27, 3/12 Denver (TM); 12-15 2/26, 3/9 Platteville (Mrs.JL); first singing 3/16 NW Denver (1st 1954, 3/27; 1956, 3/23) (DT).
Long-eared Owl - 1 2/22 near Boulder, 1 3/10 Green Mtn. (Jefferson Co.) (CR); 5 at one place 2/24 Boulder Co. (CC).
Short-eared Owl - 2 2/16 Wellington (J&MD).
ROADRUNNER - the one reported in November, seen again 3/11, first time since early December. Idaho Springs (EE).
Flicker hybrid - bird similar to the male reported in summer 1955 and January 1956, probably same one (all features of Red-shafted except touch of red on back of head) found dead 3/2, N. Denver (DT).
Lewis's Woodpecker - 1-4 2/16-3/10 Ft. Collins-Loveland (J&MD); 2 3/10 Boulder Co. (CC) (Still none vicinity of Denver).

Mountain Chickadee - 1 2/22 NW Denver (only one since 2/5) (DT).
Common Bushtit - 8 or fewer, 8 days 2/13-3/12 SE Denver, 4 2/18 Cheesman Park, Denver (TM).
Red-breasted Nuthatch - 1 at feeder about 2/20-3/12 NW Denver (Mrs.MC).
Rock Wren - 2 (apart) 3/3 Red Rocks Park (DT) (1st 1954, 4/4; 1955 4/24; 1956, 4/10).
American Robin - first full song 3/7 NW Denver (DT).
Varied Thrush - last seen 2/10 Ft. Morgan (reported last month, 1/15-23) (EMcC).
Western Bluebird - 6 2/3 Daniels Park (Douglas Co.) Very early for this species (RJN, (first 1956, 3/24; 1955, 4/10; 1954, 4/4).
Mountain Bluebird - first 2 2/3 Daniels Park (RJN) (first 1956, 2/3); 2 2/26 NE Colo. (LJL); (Many reports 2/10 and later); 1 3/9 Floyd Hill, 25 mi. W of Denver (1st in mountains) (TM).
Water Pipit - 2 3/15 Cherry Creek, SE Denver (TM).
Bohemian Waxwing - 50 2/25, 300 2/28 Boulder - some seen daily since (reported 3/14) (LC); 7 3/4 Cherry Hills (RJN); 12 3/9, 12 NW Denver (Mrs.MC); small flock 3/16 near Littleton (J&PW).
Gray Shrike - 1 3/9 imitated Western Meadowlark song Ft. Collins (J&MD); (several other reports of this species).
Loggerhead Shrike - 1 3/10 Boulder Co. (CC).
Common Starling - 1 3/10 Genesee Mtn. Park, 7500 ft. (first record) (DT).
Brewer's Blackbird - 25 2/16 Platteville (Mrs.JL) (this flock wintered - no new migrants yet reported).
Cardinal - 2/21 Ft. Morgan (EMcC).
Pine Siskin - flock of 16 3/3 Red Rocks (DT); 1 3/10 Boulder Co. (CC); (still unusually scarce).
Red Crossbill - small flock 3/10 Genesee Mtn. Park (first report since December)(DT).
White-winged Junco - 1 2/24 last Ft. Collins (J&MD); 1 3/3 Red Rocks Park (DT); 2 3/10 Genesee Mtn. (DT); 1 3/14 SE Denver (TM).
American Tree Sparrow - 52 2/24, 60 3/10, none 3/17 Boulder Co. (CC); 1 2/26 NE Colo. (LJL); 18 3/7 Platteville (Mrs.JL); (none 3/3 or 17 at Red Rocks (DT).
Harris's Sparrow - 2 3/10 Boulder Co. (CC).

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WELDONA NOTES

by Howard Rollin

March 1, 1957 - The past month saw a slight increase in bird life activities here; several migrants showed up, and some of the winter residents started north in large numbers. The fine spring-like weather so early has no doubt been the cause of such early movement. The past month has also brought into song some of the resident birds at about the usual time for most of them. The very dry weather continued here, and we have had only very light dust-settlers all during February until yesterday, when light rain and snow fell most of the day.

All water birds are absent. Hawks are very scarce, except the Golden Eagle, which can be seen most any day. Marsh and Rough-legged Hawks are about, but rare. The Sparrow Hawk has been seen twice, 2/5 and 6. Horned Owl on eggs 2/22, 3 in number. Horned Lark singing first time 2/5; hundreds going north 2/10, continuing for 4 or 5 days; singing commonly 2/16, but no flight songs noted yet. Two or three Crows were seen 7 miles south of Fort Morgan, 2/5. (While this is out of my district, it shows the difference a few miles makes in bird life. Crows are about there most of the time I am told.) Magpies are quite common and are around their nesting sites every day. The first Rock Wren here 2/22, a very early date, as none have been seen before March in previous years. A flock of 8-10 Robins was seen about 10 miles south of here 2/13, but so far none have reached here. Mountain Bluebirds, first 2/2 a very early date (previous early date 2/6/50); again 2/3 and continued until 2/15; none since. They were feeding about the weeds on warm days on the early swarming termites. The Gray Shrike continued erratic, roosted in tree at house from 2/4 until 2/22, and has not been seen since. Starlings are rare right here; 3, 2/26. House Sparrows, first at place here for 2 months or more, 2 2/3; gone 2/19, back again 2/23 and a few

remain. Western Meadowlarks starting to sing 2/5, singing more often 2/14, and increasing in numbers 2/27. Red-winged Blackbird, first since November 1, 1 2/14; again 2/17, 27, 28. American Tree Sparrows remain about in small numbers and with them are 2 or 3 each of Pink-sided and Montana Oregon Juncos. No other Juncos have been seen since last fall. Lapland Longspurs, which have been scarce all winter, began working north in small numbers 2/3, increasing by 2/6; hundreds 2/10, smaller numbers 2/11 and continuing to 2/19 when only one or two were noted; none since 2/24 although there should be more about as this is quite early for all to be gone. Longspurs and Horned Larks, all moving north, could be seen all day long for roughly a week or so.

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NEW MEMBERS

Mr. George B. Berger, Jr. - 230 Vine St. (6) . . . . . EA 2-8227

Mr. Adrey E. Borell - Soil Conservation Service, USDA, 321 New Custom House, Denver

Miss Mildred Chapman - 1135 Emerson (3). . . . . TA 5-6926

Mr. Leonard Dieckman, S. J. - Regis College, W. 50th & Lowell (11)

Mrs. Eric Douglas - 457 Williams St. (18). . . . . FL 5-744

Mr. E. Dean Finley - Box 92, Weldona, Colo. (Sub.)

Mrs. Cass Herrington - 5 S. Downing (9). . . . . RA 2-7743

Mr. E. H. Hilliard - 3146 S. Vine, Englewood, Colo. . . . . SU 9-0692

Mrs. Jennie Long - Box 514, Castle Rock, Colo. (Sub.)

Mrs. John Mackenzie - 180 Lafayette St. (18) . . . . . PE 3-4854

Mrs. Estella McCutcheon - 415 Meeker, Fort Morgan

Miss Gertrude Pierce - 2240 Colorado Blvd. (7) . . . . . FR 7-2240

Mrs. Merle Thielen - 803 Vivian St., Longmont, Colo. (Sub.)

Mrs. Marian P. van de Griendt - 1535 S. Garfield St. (10). . . . . SK 6-2453

Mr. & Mrs. George E. Winterbourne - 5010 Stuart St. (12) . . . . . GL 5-8164

We welcome the above new members, who have joined the club since publication of the membership list in November.

Change of address

Miss Alma Kirkeby - Apt. 9, 1407 E. 11th (18)

Corrections

Mrs. J. P. Steele, Jr. - 4935 Raleigh St., (12)

Mrs. C. D. Voris - 1085 Olive St. (20)

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THE NEW YORK STATE STANDARDS

OF ABUNDANCE, FREQUENCY, AND SEASONAL OCCURRENCE

by Robert S. Arbib, Jr.
(From Audubon Field Notes Volume 11, No. 1, February 1957)

What do we mean when we say "Juncos were common this winter?" What do you understand an author to mean when he writes "The Yellow Rail is a very rare migrant in this region?" Do we all communicate the same information when we use words like occasional, abundant, transient, sporadic?

When the State Book Committee began its task of planning a new ornithology for New York State, one of the first items on the agenda was the establishment of a set of standards whereby bird abundance and occurrence could be uniformly reported. It seemed to the committee quite necessary that some acceptable system of recording should be set up, so that observers, reporters, and editors alike, from all parts of the state, should mean the same thing when they used the same words. And that eventual readers of the book, no matter where located (or when), would know what these words meant, and could compare their own contemporary knowledge with the state of affairs when the book was published.

We on the committee thought this task would be an easy one. We would merely search through the literature until we found one that seemed appropriate, and appropriate it. But we were soon astonished to discover that although almost every bird book, periodical, or newspaper article on bird distribution uses such terms over and over, authors have - with few exceptions - left it entirely to the reader to decide just what they mean when they say that a bird is "rare". The few exceptions that we found did not suit our purpose, so we reluctantly decided to devise our own.

One of the first discoveries that we made is that there are actually three different areas of meaning concerned, each of which is needed in order to describe correctly the status of a bird.

The first is numerical abundance, and it is concerned with numbers of birds recorded during a single day's observation, considering the season as the limiting factor. (This will be clear in the tables that follow.)

With breeding birds, a different set of definitions is needed. Obviously frequency has little use in this scheme. The committee had to choose between an absolute scale, which would translate statistics on a pair/area basis, or a relative scale, which would translate percentage of occupancy of suitable breeding habitat. While the second type of scale might better suit the modern needs of ecological study, there is so little information at hand for most species that this method is for the present impossible to use. Therefore, we devised an absolute scale, which makes use of a "double standard" recognizing that (with some exceptions) larger birds are not found breeding as densely as the smaller species. We have made the flicker, quite arbitrarily, the dividing line.

The second category is frequency of observation, and it is concernod with regularity (or lack of it) of occurrence of a species during a sequence of seasons. For example, in the last ten winters, how many years has the Snowy Owl appeared, and what word best describes this occurence?

The third area of meaning is the noun that describes the type of seasonal occurrence of the species. Thus it might be that a bird is described as abundant (at the high end of the numerical scale), accidental (at the low end of the frequency scale), and a vagrant visitant, which would describe its type of seasonal occurence.

In fact there is no doubt that the entire set of standards which the committee has proposed is an arbitrary one. But this is the nature of definition. It does

not matter too much what actual words, symbols, or hieroglyphics are used, as long as they are consistent, and everyone uses the same set. At the same time, the committee has attempted to provide definitions that coincide with most people's experience. After the standards were drawn up, a number of observers around New York State were asked to apply them to birds on their local lists. Most found our definitions reasonably in line with their preconceptions, and in all cases helpful in clarifying vague understandings. On the other hand, suggestions by more mathematically-minded experts that our standards should be based on logarithmic or other purely mathematical bases were explored and rejected. They would have resulted in a very pretty but totally unrealistic and unusable set of standards. What we have done is to adapt the terms in current use to numerical ranges most widely associated with these terms, and put them in logical order for the first time.

At any rate, the criteria below are now official for observers and editors in New York State, and they are offered here for adoption by anyone who so wishes. It would certainly be useful if we could all get together on some set of standards, whatever it is, so that when a Californian writes that a species is uncommon, the New Englander knows exactly what he means.

It has been suggested that there is no need for a set of definitions such as we propose, since the only really accurate way to record abundance and frequency is statistically. In other words, why convert accurate statistics into a less accurate verbal scale, which the reader must promptly transpose back into statistical generalities? This is a valid criticism, but we do not look upon these standards as total substitution for statistics. In our proposed state book, statistics will be used whenever possible. But in consolidating many reports from all over the state, the most concise and meaningful and certainly most readable way to express ourselves is with words. It is further obvious that all of us use these terms constantly. As long as we all continue to call birds casual, very common, and occasional, it is best that we have some fairly definite agreement on what we mean by them. That is the intent of our standards.

The ideas above and the tables below represent a committee effort, and the following members of that committee shared the lengthy task: Allen H. Benton, Stephen Eaton, Hazel E. Loomis, Gordon M. Meade, Harold D. Mitchell, Kenneth C. Parkes, Walter Spofford, and the writer.

I

ABUNDANCE SCALE, NON-BREEDING

(For each definition, the wording is similar, with only the numerals changing. The complete definition is given here only for the first term.)

Abundant: Occurring in such numbers that a competent observer at the appropriate time and place might see or hear more than 500 individuals in a single day.
Very common: 101-500 in a single day.
Common: 26-100 in a single day.
Fairly common: 6-25 in a single day.
Uncommon: 1-5 in a single day (no more than 25 per season).
Rare: 1-5 in a single day (no more than 5 per season).
Very rare: No more than 1 per day (and 1 per season).

II

ABUNDANCE SCALE BREEDING

TERM	BREEDING DENSITY (Flicker size or smaller)	BREEDING DENSITY (Larger than flicker)
Abundant	1 pair per 1-5 acres	1 pair per 1-25 acres
Very common	1 pair per 6-25 acres	1 pair per 26-125 acres
Common	1 pair per 26-125 acres	1 pair per 126 acres-1 sq. mile
Fairly common	1 pair per 126 acres-1 sq. mile	1 pair per 1 sq. mile-5 sq. miles

Uncommon	1 pair per 1 sq. mile-5 sq. miles	1 pair per 6-25 sq. miles
Rare	1 pair per 6 sq. miles-25 sq. miles	1 pair per 26-125 sq. miles
Very rare	1 pair per 26 sq. miles or more	1 pair per 126 sq. miles or more

To distinguish between colonial and non-colonial breeders the modifiers "generally" or "locally" can precede these terms.

III
FREQUENCY STANDARD

Regular: Recorded every year.
Irregular: Recorded less than once every year, but no less than once in five years, on the average.
Occasional: Recorded less than once in five years, but no less than once in ten years, on the average.
Sporadic: Recorded less than once in ten years, but no less than once in twenty years, on the average.
Casual: Recorded less than once in twenty years, on the average.
*Exotic (or Accidental): Recorded but because of its normal range not expected to occur again.

IV
SEASONAL OCCURENCE

Residents: Breeding species; may occur as summer residents or permanent residents.
Transients: Birds of passage which occur in spring and/or fall but do not breed; may occur as spring transients or fall transients.
Visitants: Non-breeding birds which occur as temporary visitors; may occur as summer visitants, winter visitants, or vagrant visitants (irregular as to season).

*The committee prefers the term "exotic" (Webster: "a foreign or imported thing, a plant that is not a native; alien, strange") to the more familiar "accidental", since the latter bears an implication of cause. There has been some resistance to this suggestion, however, and the two terms are offered here as synonyms.

* * * *

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

The trip to GENESEE MOUNTAIN PARK, February 23, was attended by nine members, led by Donald Thatcher. Nine species of birds were found, of which the Pygmy Nuthatch (60) was most numerous, excepting a flock of about 150 Crows flying westward in late afternoon. The only spring migrants were three Robins. There were a few Juncos, including White-winged. A stop at Bear Creek in Morrison at dusk yielded two Dippers and a singing Canyon Wren.

The March 9 trip to RED ROCKS PARK, led by Ruth Wheeler, was made by 14 persons. At the Federal Center Pond, migrating Robins and 2 Redheads were seen also three Sparrow Hawks and an unidentified hawk (probably the Red-tail which has been in the vicinity all winter). At the Red Rocks, Juncos were most numerous (Pink-sided and Shufeldt's Oregons, Gray-headed and Slate-colored). Two Canyon Wrens, two Scrub Jays and a few Crows were found. The only migrant was a Turkey Vulture.

Eight persons attended the March 17 trip to MARSTON and BOWLES LAKES and vicinity. Seventeen species of Ducks were seen, of which only Gadwall and Redhead were in large numbers (2-3,000 each). Thompson Marsh reported a female Barrow's Goldeneye on Marston, which was not seen by the rest of the party. Other ducks included a lonemale Cinnamon Teal (Henry's Lake), the pair of Wood Ducks previously reported at Bowles and several Red-breasted Mergansers and Buffleheads. (The only common ducks missed were Blue-winged Teal and Ruddy.) There were several Horned (one in partial spring plumage) and Eared Grebes and one Pied-billed, and one Great Blue Heron. The only shore birds were 8 or 10 each of Killdeer and Baird's Sandpiper, the latter unusually early spring migrants (first reports: 1954 4/10; 1955, 3/27; 1956,

4/14). Hawks seen were a melanistic Rough-leg, an immature Golden Eagle and a Peregrine Falcon at the lakes and in the vicinity of Morrison an adult Goshawk (which perched accommodatingly on a fence post), a Red-tail and an adult Golden Eagle. Small birds included many Robins, a large flock of Mountain Bluebirds (including a few females), and a single Gray Shrike. Two or three Common Ravens were in company with a larger flock of Crows near Morrison. Total species count for the trip was 49.

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CALENDAR FOR MARCH - APRIL 1957

March			
	26 (Tues.)	8 PM	Regular Meeting. Bird Room, Denver Museum of Natural History. Talk with slides on Activities of River Basin Branch of U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service by Walter Ray. (Please use North employees' entrance)
	30 (Sat.)	7 AM	Joint field trip with Colorado Mountain Club. Plum Creek area west of Sedalia. John Chapin, leader (SK6-2200). CMC leader Eliot Moses. Meet at Old Library, Civic Center.
April			
	6 (Sat.)	1 PM	Field trip to Cherry Creek Dam (plains & bottomland). Thompson Marsh, leader (FR7-5380). Meet at SW corner of Denver Dry Goods parking lot, University Blvd. and 1st Ave. (Trans. 50¢)
	13 (Sat.)	1 PM	Field trip to Bax Ranch and Morrison. Sadie Morrison, Leader (MA3-0840). Meet at W. Colfax and Sheridan Blvd. (Trans. 50¢)
	14 (Sun.)	7 AM	Field trip to Marston and Bowles Lakes. James Humphrey, leader (GR7-3800). Meet at W. Colfax and Sheridan Blvd. (Trans. 50¢)
	23 (Tues.)	8 PM	Regular meeting. Bird Room, D. M. N. H.
	27 (Sat.)	7 AM	Joint field trip with Colorado Mountain Club to foothills West of Denver. John Flavin, leader (SK6-1744). CMC leader, Julia Kassanchuk. Meet Old Library, Civic Center.
	28 (Sun.)	7 AM	Field trip to Barr Lake and vicinity. Donald Thatcher, leader (GL5-7479). Meet at Museum parking lot (Colo. & Montview Blvds.). (Trans. 50¢)

COLORADO BIRD NOTES

Bulletin of the Colorado Bird Club

Vol. 4 No. 7 Denver, Colorado April 1957

1957 STATE-WIDE SPRING COUNT

Our third State-wide Spring Count is planned for Saturday, May 11. Birders throughout Colorado are invited to take part, covering their favorite areas and reporting their finds to Colorado Bird Notes. Reports similar to those made for the Christmas counts are requested, to include: names of observers, hours in the field, miles travelled (on foot or by other means), habitats covered (a rough breakdown is satisfactory) and numbers of each species seen. As the emphasis on these counts is on numbers of species, estimates for large flocks or for the most common birds, as the Magpie, are sufficient. (We should like, however, to have the number of occurrences of each species, if convenient, for a later project.) Unlike the Christmas Count, there are no limits to the area that one party may cover and no minimum time requirement.

The date chosen for this year's count is a week earlier than those of the last two years, as it was generally agreed that those two counts (as well as a local one in 1954) were made a few days after the peak of migration had passed. While undoubtedly some late-migrant species will not have arrived, it is believed that early migrants and straggling winter residents will more than compensate for their absence. Those who can do so are urged to try to cover the same areas a week later (May 18) and report their success, as a guide in scheduling counts in the future.

All those at Denver who wish to participate should notify John Chapin (SK6-2200) or Donald Thatcher (GL5-7479) so that parties can be arranged and assigned to different sections in the vicinity of Denver.

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WELDONA NOTES

by Howard Rollin

April 1, 1957 - The past month continued the drouth in this immediate place; all moisture that came was only traces. The warm spring-like days were interspaced with some cold and days of strong winds. Bird movement continued very slow and birds on the whole remained on the uncommon side. On the windy days birds were entirely absent, even about the buildings. The last few days the Horned Larks have been singing just about everywhere, and a few Meadowlarks join in, though they are not common here at the present. The Hawks have been absent or very rare, and no Rough-leg Hawks have been about since 3/13 until last evening (3/31), when one was seen. On a 50-mile trip 3/27 not one hawk of any kind was seen. One unidentified hawk was seen 3/19, size about of a Broad-wing, light below, brown above with white spots on each upper wing near the wrist, and an entirely white tail. Without a single bar or other marking; it was soaring and gliding in the canyons and the view was mostly from above. Golden Eagles remain about; 3 were seen 3/27. Marsh Hawks have been absent the past month, until 1 appeared, 3/30.

Canada Geese - 9 3/1
Ducks - all absent to date
Ring-necked Pheasant - 1 3/27, about 15 miles southeast of here, the first seen in 8 months anywhere.
Killdeer - first 1 3/19, same as last year and an average date; again 3/20 and some have been seen the last 3 days.
Horned Owl - 3 young at this time.

Red-shafted Flicker - first 1 3/19
Horned Lark - first flight song 3/5; singing commonly 3/12 and flight songs common at this time.
Magpie - common and continues about nests.
Crows - 2 3/31
Rock Wren - again 1 3/10; continues and is singing.
Robin - None have reached here in spite of their being **very** common just a few miles south of here. One 3/1 and two flocks of 15 and 20 3/8 about 15 miles southeast of here.
Mountain Bluebird - 8 here 3/10 (first since 2/15); 2 3/15 and 3/26 15 miles southeast; 1 3/27 here.
Gray Shrike - 1 at house, 2 along road 3/1; last here 1 3/15.
Starling - 2 3/1, 1 3/10, 5 3/30, 6 3/31.
House Sparrow - 1 or 2 remain here.
Red-winged Blackbird - 8 3/1, 4 3/12, 1 3/17; a few (3-6) remain.
Slate-colored Junco - last 3/27
Oregon Junco
Pink-sided - last 3/22
Montana - still here
Shufeldt's - last 3/25
American Tree Sparrow - still here
White-crowned Sparrow - 1 3/4 and 3/21; none since.
Lapland Longspur - last 3/20; rare since the large flocks passed last month.
McCown's Longspur - first 8-10 3/25

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BIRDS OF THE MONTH

by Donald M. Thatcher

April 28, 1957 - The spring migration, which seemed in February and March to be considerably earlier than usual, suffered a set-back with the storm of April 1-3, which left 18 inches or more of snow in the Denver area, followed by cold and another snowfall a week later. Bird movement has since returned to normal.

Hawk and Turkey Vulture migration reached its peak about April 13-14 shown by the following counts:

(A) 4/13 Fort Collins-Windsor-Loveland, 5½ hours, John & Margaret Douglass.
(B) 4/14 Fort Collins-Waverly-Wellington, 5 hours, J. & M. D.
(C) 4/14 Boulder, edge of foothills, 1:30-3:30 PM (none after 3:30), Larry Crowley.
(D) 4/15 Northeast of Boulder, L. C.
(E) 4/21 Same as (B), 9 hours.

	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)
Turkey Vulture			86		
Sharp-shinned			12	10	
Cooper's		1	17		
Red-tailed	10	2	36	20	
Swainson's					3
Rough-legged	2	3			4
Golden Eagle		3	6	2	
Marsh	3	3	6	6	5
Prairie Falcon			1	1	1
Sparrow Hawk	36	28	2	25	25
Unidentified	3		9		
Totals	54	40	175	64	38

Larry Crowley also reports that the Sparrow Hawk migration became noticeable

4/13 at Boulder and that he saw 25 Sparrow Hawks, 4/18, in Colorado, during a trip from Boulder to Laramie, Wyoming. The writer saw four Buteos (Red-tails?) flying north over the city at Denver 4/13. The 1956 height of hawk migration was April 14-15.

Following are listed a number of first dates, last dates and unusual numbers or occurrences, with comparable dates for the past few years for most of them. Earlier first dates, later departures and any data on the height of migration (large counts) are solicited. Especially unusual species are underlined. Contributors: Catherine Crone, Mrs. Mary Crow, Larry Crowley, John and Margaret Douglass, John Flavin, E. R. Kalmbach, Mrs. John Lett, L. Jack Lyon, Thompson Marsh, Mrs. Estella McCutcheon, Sadie Morrison, R. J. Niedrach, Ray Olson, R. Poley, Cal Royall, Carl Schmitt, Donald Thatcher, Oakleigh Thorne, Lois Webster and Boulder Bird Club (BBC).

Mountain species - last observations on plains:

Mountain Chickadee - 3/16 Denver (LW); 5 4/22, 1 4/24 SE Denver (TM)
Red-breasted Nuthatch - 1 regularly at feeder since 2/20, last seen 4/19, NW Denver (Mrs.MC)
Townsend's Solitaire - 1 3/28 SE Denver (JF); 1 4/7 SE Denver, 1 4/21 City Park, Denver (TM)
Cassin's Finch - 2 4/6, 6 4/12-18 Boulder (CC).
Gray-headed Junco - 2 4/24 SE Denver (TM)

Northern species - last observations:

Great Gray Shrike - 1 3/16 Platteville (Mrs.JL); 3 4/15 NE of Boulder (LC)
Rosy Finches - flock 400 (Gray-crowned, Black, Brown-capped and 2 Hepburn's Gray-crowned) 3/24 near Lyons at elevation 5500 (LC)
White-winged Junco - 1 4/5 SE Denver (TM); 4/17 Boulder (OT) (1956, 3/6; 1955, 4/13)
Slate-colored Junco - 1 3/2 Platteville (Mrs.JL); 2 4/5, 1 4/11 SE Denver (TM). (1956, 4/13; 1955, 4/17)
American Tree Sparrow - 4 4/6 Cherry Creek Dam (Club trip) (1955, 4/13)
Lapland Longspur - 1 female 3/24 City Park, Denver (TM)
Chestnut-collared Longspur - many 4/10-17 NE Colorado (LJL) (last 1956, 4/23 Rollin)

First dates of arrival, plains:

Common Loon - 1 4/14, 21 Fort Collins (J&MD); 1 4/14 Marston Lake (w. of Littleton) (Club trip)
Horned Grebe - 4 3/17 Marston Lake (Club trip); 1 in breeding plumage 4/7 Sloan's Lake (west Denver) (TM); (1956, 3/21; 1955, 3/13)
Eared Grebe - 3 3/17 Marston Lake (Club trip); 7 4/21 vicinity Ft. Collins (J&MD); 7 4/21 Sloan's Lake, Denver (DT); (1956, 3/21; 1955, 3/13)
Western Grebe - 4 4/21 vicinity Ft. Collins (J&MD); (1956, 4/20; 1955, 4/24)
Pied-billed Grebe - 2 3/17 Marston Lake (Club trip)
Double-crested Cormorant - 24 4/13 Ft. Collins-Loveland (J&MD); (1956, 3/31; 1955, 4/9)
Snowy Egret - 1 4/21 vicinity Boulder (CC); (1956, 4/12)
Black-crowned Night Heron - 22 4/21 Ft. Collins (J&MD); (1956, 4/15)
Snow Goose - 2 flocks (200 and 400) early April Bonny Dam (RP); 7 4/14 near Waverly (J&MD); (1956, 4/14)
Ross's Goose - 2 early April with Snow Geese, (banded) Bonny Dam (RP)
Blue-winged Teal - 3 4/14 near Ft. Collins (J&MD); 7 4/21 Boulder (CC); 2 4/23 SE Denver (TM); (1956, 3/24)
Broad-winged Hawk - 1 4/22 Cheesman Park, Denver (TM)
Swainson's Hawk - 1 4/13 near Boulder (LC); 1 4/20 Cherry Creek Dam (10 miles SE of Denver) (RJN and others); (1956, 4/9; 1955, 4/17; 1954, 4/1)
American Sparrow Hawk - 1 3/19; 1st NE Colorado "drylands" (LJL)
Semipalmated Plover - 1 4/21 Windsor (J&MD); (1956, 4/22)
Mountain Plover - 3 4/18 near Laramie, Wyoming (LC); (1956, 4/28)
Killdeer - 3/27 NE Colorado (LJL)
Greater Yellowlegs - 2 4/13 Ft. Collins-Loveland (J&MD); 3 4/14 Henry's Lake west of Littleton (TM); (1956, 4/8; 1954, 3/27)

Lesser Yellowlegs - 8 4/21 near Ft. Collins (J&MD); (1956, 4/19; 1955, 4/20)
Baird's Sandpiper - 8 3/17 Marston Lake (Club trip - reported last month); 2 4/13 Ft. Collins-Loveland (J&MD); (1956, 4/14; 1955, 3/27; 1954, 4/10)
Least Sandpiper - 1 4/23 SE Denver (TM); (1956, 4/14)
American Avocet - 7 4/9 Ft. Collins (J&MD); several reports 4/13-15; (1956, 4/7; 1955, 4/6; 1954, 3/27)
Wilson's Phalarope - 4 4/21 Ft. Collins (J&MD); (1956, 4/21)
California Gull - 9 4/14 Marston and Henry's Lakes (west of Littleton) (Club trip); (1956, 4/22)
Franklin's Gull - 4 4/13 Harriman Lake (w. of Littleton) (Club trip); 3 4/21 Boulder (CC); (1956, 4/1)
Bonaparte's Gull - 2 4/14 Henry's Lake (DT); 3 4/19 Ft. Collins (LC); 4 4/21 Windsor (J&MD); (1956, 4/22)
Forster's Tern - 14 4/21 Windsor (J&MD); (1956, 4/28)
Mourning Dove - 3/21 Fort Morgan (EM); 6 4/14 (first since winter) Ft. Collins (J&MD); (Earlier dates reported in March CBN.) First appeared in numbers 3/26, NW Denver; left at time of snowstorm 4/1-3 and reappeared about 4/7. Less numerous than in previous years. None on NE Colorado "dryland" to date 4/17 (LJL).
Burrowing Owl - 1 4/20 SE Denver (TM); (1956, 4/7)
White-throated Swift - 4/20 Boulder (LC); (1956, 3/31; 1955, 4/9; 1954, 4/4)
Williamson's Sapsucker - 2/26 Ft. Morgan - (very early and rare on the plains) (EM)
Say's Phoebe - 4 4/14, 11 4/21 vicinity Ft. Collins (J&MD); 3 4/21 Boulder (CC); (1956, 3/29 -nesting 4/7, Weldona-; 1955, 4/10; 1954, 4/4)
Tree Swallow - 3 4/13 Fossil Creek Resv. (between Loveland & Ft. Collins) (J&MD); (1956, 4/28)
Barn Swallow - 4 4/21 Boulder (CC); 1 4/22 Denver (Federal Center) (DT); (1956, 4/14; 1955, 4/21; 1954, 4/28)
Mockingbird - 1 3/21 Boulder (CC)
Brown Thrasher - 1 4/4 SE Denver (CS, reported to RJN); (1956, 5/6)
Sage Thrasher - 1 4/21 near Ft. Collins (J&MD); (1956, 4/14; 1955, 4/22; 1954, 4/8)
American Robin - 3/12 NE Colorado "drylands" (LJL); (1956, 3/14 - NE Colo.)
Varied Thrush - previously reported at Fort Morgan, 1/15 to 2/10, last seen 3/6 (EM)
Cedar Waxwing - 1 3/9 Loveland (J&MD)
Common Yellowthroat - 1 4/21 Boulder (CC); (1956, 4/29; 1955, 4/24; 1954, 5/4)
Yellow-headed Blackbird - 4 4/13 Harriman Lake (Club trip); 1 4/14 Ft. Collins (J&MD); 7 4/21 Boulder (CC); (1956, 3/25; 1955 4/10; 1954, 4/4)
Brewer's Blackbird - 40 4/14 Henry's Lake (DT); 2 4/21 Boulder (CC); (Several wintered at Platteville, reported February & March); (1956, 3/16; 1955, 3/12)
Crow Blackbird (Purple Grackle) - 1 3/23 Fort Morgan (EM); 1 4/11 Ft. Collins (J&MD); 5 4/18 SE Denver (TM); 1 4/18 NW Denver (DT); (1956, 4/3; 1955, 4/11)
Evening Grosbeak - 20 3/17 Ft. Collins - first since fall (J&MD); (Ray Olson reports small flock at Wheatridge in March - the only winter report for the Denver area.) (Abundant April, 1956 throughout Colorado.)
Pine Siskin - 10 3/24 near Lyons (LC); few 4/6 Parker Road - 8 miles SE of Denver (Club trip); 3 4/14 Ft. Collins (J&MD); 1 4/24 SE Denver (TM); (Still scarce. These are the only reports since last month.)
Green-tailed Towhee - 1 4/10 NW Denver (reported to RJN) (1956, 4/30; 1955, 5/1; 1954, 5/2)
Rufous-sided (Spotted) Towhee - 1 3/31 Red Rocks Park (First since 12/23; usually a few winter.) (DT)
Savannah Sparrow - 1 4/19 Henry's Lake (TM); 1 4/21 Boulder (CC); (1956, 5/3)
Vesper Sparrow - 1 2/26 Boulder (BBC); 1 3/8 Platteville (Mrs.JL); 40 4/21 vicinity Fort Collins (J&MD); (1956, 4/10; 1955, 4/13; 1954, 4/12) .3/26 NE Colorado drylands (1956, 4/17; 1955, 4/13) (LJL)
Sage Sparrow - 1 4/15 Boulder (OT)
Lincoln's Sparrow - 1 3/23 Boulder (ERK); (1956, 5/6)
Chipping Sparrow - 3/10 Boulder (BBC); 1 4/21 Ft. Collins (J&MD); 1 4/24 SE Denver (TM); (1956, 4/1; 1955, 4/13; 1954, 4/25; 1953, 5/8)

First dates, mountains:
Williamson's Sapsucker - 1 4/21 Genesee Mtn. Park (DT); (1956, 3/31; 1955, 4/16; 1954, 4/4)

Western Bluebird - 2 prs. 3/30 Evergreen (TM); (1956, 3/24; 1955, 4/10)

Unusual numbers and early nesting:
Horned Grebe - 20 4/14 Marston Lake (Club trip); 37 4/14 Loveland-Ft. Collins, 33 4/21 vicinity Ft. Collins (J&MD)
Red-breasted Merganser - 75 4/14 Fort Collins (J&MD)
Long-eared Owl - 4 4/6 (4 eggs in nest) (Club trip); 10 4/20 (5 eggs in same nest) (RJN and others) Cherry Creek Dam, 10 miles SE of Denver
Short-eared Owl - 2 4/6 (Club trip); 2 4/20 (RJN & others) Cherry Creek Dam
American Robin - 300-400 3/8 Greeley (Mrs.JL); flock 500 (plus 115 in 21 occurrences) 4/13 between Ft. Collins and Loveland (J&MD); biggest concentration at Denver 4/14 (DT)
Mountain Bluebird - 128 (high count) 3/8 Platteville (Mrs.JL); 3/24 large flocks near Lyons (LC); 100 4/13, 175 4/14 vicinity Ft. Collins-Loveland (J&MD); 100 4/14 NE Denver (SM)
Bohemian Waxwing - several reports, 4/3-20, Boulder (53, highest count) (CC&LC); 7 reports (6 to 100) 4/4-16, throughout Denver (TM,RJN,RO,CR,DT)

* * * *

APRIL BIRDING THROUGH TEXAS

by Jean & Parnell White

To those of you who may have been planning a birding trip to Texas, we heartily recommend the first two weeks in April as an excellent time to make the trip. Not only was the birding good at this time of year, but the wildflowers were at their peak because of the wet spring. In west Texas the cacti were in bloom, and other wildflowers were especially numerous near Kingsville with the noted fields of bluebonnets at their best just south of San Antonio.

On the first day's journey thru New Mexico an immature Peregrine Falcon was the main item of interest to birders and the usual Horned Larks. We had read about the dead cattle from the previous weekend blizzard, but the sight was even more distressing. At Mackenzie State Park in Lubbock, Texas we found only 3 Burrowing Owls blinking in the noonday sun at Prairie Dog Town. (There was an article about this town in a recent issue of Audubon Magazine. We saw some individualistic prairie dogs making their homes outside the low cinder block walled-in area.) Mockingbirds were building nests in Lubbock. South of Lamesa just after we had seen an immature Golden Eagle we started seeing new birds (to us). The first was a male Pyrrhuloxia which not only gave us a good view, but obligingly sang too. By the time we got to Pecos the trees were mostly leafed out and mortality must have been high among the animals, as Turkey Vultures became a common sight. The most seen in one group were 11 in the Big Bend National Park. The first Great-tailed Grackle was seen at a distance and misidentified as a Crow until the huge keel-shaped tail could be seen. At Odessa the first White-necked Raven was observed. We supposed most of the Ravens we saw in this area were White-necks, although the only other one that had the white visible occurred near Laredo. In the Big Bend area we kept seeing kingbirds that we finally arbitrarily labeled Couch's Kingbird. The shape and color of the tail as well as size and call agrees with Peterson's description, but instead of a yellowish belly, it appeared to be orangish or pale rusty no matter what light conditions were.

At Big Bend National Park on our first day there we logged 10 life birds. (The best day was 11 species along the coast.) The first bird seen was a Brown (Canon) Towhee (which was very common) followed in quick succession by Gray-headed Juncos, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Cactus Wren, Turkey Vultures, Rock Wrens, Scaled Quail, House Finches, Red-tailed Hawk, Ravens, Desert Sparrow, Swallows, and Mockingbirds. On the road to Santa Elena Canyon in the southwest corner of the park we saw several Verdins, Plumbeous Gnatcatcher, Gambel's Sparrows, Empidonax Flycatcher, as well as some of the above mentioned birds. At the campground by the Rio Grande River 2 male Vermilion Flycatchers were disputing territorial rights and later 2 others joined them, Cardinals, Bell's Vireo, and Ladder-backed Woodpeckers added to the colorful scene. A female hummer was incubating on a nest which fits the description of a

Black-chinned Hummingbird. We saw a hummer flying in the same area that showed buffy underparts which we suspected was the one nesting, as we were never able to see both at the same time. Upon checking with Mr. Broderick (the Park Ranger-naturalist), we confirmed our suspicion that it was early for hummers to be nesting there. Although a check-list for the Park has not been completed, Mr. Broderick generously took time to show us the cards with the available data and also let us see the pamphlet (now out of print) on the birds of Brewster County. He also told us where to find the commoner birds, but in spite of his help we missed a lot of them. The White-winged Doves appeared at the horse corral on schedule with Mourning Doves. The Couch's Jay (a subspecies of the Arizona Jay) looked so much like the Scrub Jay found in Colorado that we hardly felt we were logging a new species. At Boquillas Canyon in the southeast corner of the park the only additional species seen were dozens of White-throated Swifts, a few Rough-winged Swallows, 6 Baldpates on the river, a Great Blue Heron, Marsh Hawk and a Roadrunner.

The next day after seeing our first Scott's Oriole (It sang a bit of song that sounded like a Meadowlark to us, so we thought we were hearing things. Later we found that its song is similar to a Western Meadowlark, which relieved our minds!) we left the Park for Carrizo Springs near Eagle Pass. A Sennett's White-tailed Hawk was a welcome addition to our list and soaring over the Pecos River gorge a Black Vulture made his first appearance. Later in the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge we saw in one spot at least 3 dozen either circling or perched in trees, all Black Vultures. Scissor-tailed Flycatchers became more common the farther south we went as did the Mockingbirds. In fact, around Brownsville, Mockingbirds appeared more common than House Sparrows!

We began seeing Harris's Hawks, usually in pairs, on the way to Brownsville, several Ash-throated Flycatchers, and in one stretch of road Golden-fronted Woodpeckers and Ladder-backed Woodpeckers were on every telephone pole - it was a tossup as to which species was the more numerous. Just outside of Brownsville a Hooded Oriole led us a merry chase before we identified him. By our cabin a Black-crested Titmouse showed us by its actions and friendliness that it was related to the Black-capped Chickadee. Inca Doves were common by the lake nearby and though we saw several hummingbirds, they would not stay still long enough for identification. Blue Jays were becoming more common.

Green Jays, Eastern Bluebirds, a Solitary Vireo, Bewick's Wren and Audubon's Caracara were seen NE of Brownsville. The Caracara was so close we saw its red face clearly as well as the black crest. At a pool on the alkali flats (on the famous King Ranch) we saw our first shorebirds, Willets, Yellowlegs, Killdeer, Ringed (or Semipalmated) Plovers, Piping Plovers, and unidentified small sandpipers and terns. Just south of San Antonio more than a dozen Chimney Swifts were cleaning the sky over Pleasanton, and a pleasant sight it was.

At the zoo in Brackenridge Park in San Antonio we got a preview of coming attractions, especially wading birds. From Corpus Christi (state hiway 35) to Galveston Laughing Gulls were the most common Gulls, Ring-billed Gulls, Royal Terns in winter plumage, Caspian Terns, Gull-billed Terns, Sooty Terns, and Least Terns all in breeding plumage. We crossed a lot of causeways where the Least Terns gave us a closeup look. The wind was blowing hard from the Gulf and though they flew furiously, something (perhaps the updraft by the causeways) kept them suspended at eye level beside the car. Also seen along the coast were Wilson's Phalaropes, Double-crested Cormorants, American Mergansers, Red-breasted Mergansers, Marbled Godwits, Kingfishers, Redheads and Coots. Black-bellied Plovers and Ruddy Turnstones were still in winter plumage. At Goose Island State Park a Brown Thrasher was the only bird added to our list. In the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge the biggest thrills were Roseate Spoonbills and a Black Skimmer. We missed the Whooping Cranes, which are the big attraction at the refuge (This refuge is the only remaining wintering site of the Whooping Crane.) - someone told us before we got there that they had already gone north. We received a map of the refuge upon registering which gave the species apt to be seen in the different areas. A sign at the observation tower by Mustang Lake warned visitors to confine their observing to the tower, as

the Whooping Cranes and other birds were used to seeing people on the tower and would not be disturbed by their presence there. We noticed the Reddish Egrets (dark phase) Louisiana Herons, and Great Blue Herons were more common right on the coast, while the Snowy and American Egrets were found more often in the marshes farther inland.

We crossed from Galveston to Point Bolivar by ferry and had Brown Pelicans (adults and immatures) and White Pelicans keeping us company. Sanderlings were still in winter plumage on the beaches to Port Arthur and lots of Swallows of all kinds were seen. No new birds were seen in Louisiana, perhaps because no side trips were made. We did see what seemed to us an unusual number of turtles, small, medium, and large sunning on logs in the swamps by the road. In Arkansas the Ouachita Mountains yielded a Black and White Warbler; the Ozark Mountains gave us a Purple Martin and Cedar Waxwings. Near Oberlin, Kansas the first Magpie told us more clearly than the signs that Colorado was ahead!

We added 49 new birds to our life list, a little more than half of those are birds that occur in Colorado (from straggler to common), but which we had not been able to find in the two years we have been birders. The total species seen was over 140, how much over our memories fail us and we were too busy looking to write every bird down. More experienced birders should be able to find more species that occur only in west Texas, the Rio Grande valley, and along the coast.

* * * *

The Club will miss a good member and friend, Mrs. Ona Scudder, of Georgetown who passed away late in March. Our sympathy is extended to her family.

* * * *

The new "Audubon Western Bird Guide", by Richard H. Pough, is now available. It contains descriptions and colored illustration of the 219 species of western birds not included in the two earlier Eastern Guides, "Audubon Bird Guide" (1946) and "Audubon Water Bird Guide" (1951) and gives the names and ranges of a total of 614 western species. The three volumes (the two eastern guides can be obtained bound in one cover at the Denver Museum.) give complete coverage of the birds of North America.

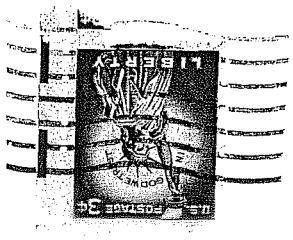
* * * *

CALENDAR FOR MAY 1957

May			
5	(Sun.)	7 AM	Field trip to Platteville. Mrs. John Lett & Donald Thatcher (GL5-7479) leaders. Meet at Museum Parking lot (Montview & Colorado Blvds. Bring lunch. Transp. $1.00.
11	(Sat.)	All Day -	Spring Count. See notice elsewhere.
18	(Sat.)	10 AM	Trip to Plum Creek, Sedalia. Ruth Wheeler, leader (GL5-3924) Meet on Alameda, in block west of Broadway. Bring lunch. Transp. 50¢
19	(Sun.)	5 AM	Trip to Cherry Creek Dam. Thompson Marsh, leader (FR7-5380) Meet at SWcor. Denver Dry Goods parking lot, University Blvd. & 1st Ave. ½ day. Transp. 50¢
25	(Sat.)	1 PM	Trip to Barr Lake. Sadie Morrison, leader (MA3-0840). Meet at Museum parking lot (Montview & Colorado Blvds.) Trans. 50¢
26	(Sun.)	6 AM	Trip to Genesee Mountain Park. Donald Thatcher, leader (GL5-7479). Meet at Old Library, Civic Center. ½ day. Transp. 50¢
28	(Tues.)	8 PM	Regular Meeting. Election of Officers. Bird Room, Denver Museum of Natural History.

Anyone interested is welcome at all meetings or trips.
Please call leader before field trips, if possible.
Transportation is by private cars; amounts above are for those riding with others.

Miss Ruth Wheeler
3340 West 37th Ave.
Denver 11, Colo.



Colorado Bird Club
2916 Perry St.
Denver 12, Colo.

COLORADO BIRD NOTES

Bulletin of the Colorado Bird Club

Vol. 4 No. 8 Denver, Colorado May 1957

BIRDS OF THE SEASON

by Donald M. Thatcher

The following report on the spring migration is written as the fall migration is getting under way. Movements of Franklin's Gull, Bullock's Oriole, and Western Tanager have already been noted, but data on these will be reported in our next issue.

The cold following the storm of April 1-3 delayed the growth of most plants ten days to two weeks. Bird migration generally followed the same pattern, as comparisons of this year's first reports with those of the last two or three years for the majority of species will indicate. Some species, however, were reported no later or even somewhat earlier than in previous years. The Yellow Warbler, which is readily detected immediately upon arrival in the city, and does not have to wait for week-end birders, arrived in Denver only two days behind its 1956 date, eight later than in 1955 and three later than in 1954.

While some common species seem to be down in numbers as compared with previous years, a number of uncommon species were unusually numerous, such as Eastern Phoebe, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Black-polled Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat, Bobolink and Blue Grosbeak. Shorebird reports suffered as a result of the unusual rains, as most of the favorite mud flats were covered with water and the birds apparently were spread thinly about the prairies at the many temporary lakes and ponds. Reports from the East indicate a general scarcity of many species of small birds, especially warblers, vireos, thrushes and flycatchers, during both the spring migration and the breeding season.

Following are listed last dates for some winter residents, first dates for spring arrivals and some unusual numbers and unusual species. To avoid duplication, many reports are referred to the Spring Count reported elsewhere in this issue. * Contributors: Jay Arnold, A. M. Bailey, Carolyn Carpenter, Mrs. Carl N. Collister, Catherine Crone, Larry Crowley, Donald Davis, Mr. & Mrs. T. L. Dement, John & Margaret Douglass, Joseph Hall, Edward Hellstern, Mrs. John Lett, L. Jack Lyon, Thompson Marsh, Ray Olson, Oppie Reames, Howard Rollin, Mahlon Speers, Donald Thatcher, Mrs. Merle Thielen, Oakleigh Thorne, H. & J. Weberbauer, Lois Webster, Henry Wickers, Olwen Williams, Aiken Ornithological Society (AOS) and Boulder Bird Club (BBC)

Last dates:

Common Loon - 3 5/4 Fort Collins (J&MD)
American Goldeneye - 1 5/5 Boulder (C.Crone)
Red-breasted Merganser - 2 5/19 *
Townsend's Solitaire - 1 4/27 SE Denver (TM)
White-winged Junco - 4/20 Boulder (BBC)
Slate-colored Junco - 4/20 " "
Oregon Junco
  Pink-sided - 11 5/19 Colo Spgs (AOS)
  Montana - 2 4/30 SE Denver (TM)
  Shufeldt's - 1 4/26 " "
Gray-headed Junco-1 6/12 Boulder (LC)
American Tree Sparrow - 1 5/19 Colo Spgs (AOS) (5/19/56)
Harris's Sparrow - 1 4/28 Barr Lake (Club trip)

First dates:
White Pelican - 4 5/11 Latham Reservoir (near La Salle) (MrsJL) * (4/22/56)
American Bittern - 2 5/11 Platteville (Mrs.JL); 1 5/12 Ft. Collins (J&MD) (4/7/56)
Glossy Ibis - 3 4/26, 4 4/27, 1 5/3 ("Seen in good light at close range. No white at point of bill attachment." - J&MD)
White-faced Ibis - 2 5/7 Berthoud (JA)
Osprey - 1 4/20 Boulder (BBC) (4/22/56)
Long-billed Curlew - 1 4/27 near Arvada (Club trip) (4/19/56)
Spotted Sandpiper - 1 4/26 Denver (LW,C.Car.) (4/28/56,4/18/55)
Solitary Sandpiper - 2 4/27 Ft. Collins (J&MD); 2 4/28 Barr L. (Club trip)(4/25/56)
Willet - 10 4/26 Denver (LW,C.Car.); (3 reports 4/27) (4/21/56)
Greater Yellowlegs - 1 4/9 Boulder (BBC) (4/8/56)
Lesser Yellowlegs - 5/11 * (4/19/56)
Pectoral Sandpiper - 5/11 * (4/29/56)
Long-billed Dowitcher - 6 5/5 Latham Res. (Club trip) (4/22/56)
Stilt Sandpiper - 5/11 *
Semipalmated Sandpiper - 2 4/27 Denver (LW,C.Car.)
Western Sandpiper - 1 4/27 Denver (LW,C.Car.); 12 4/28 Barr L (Club trip)(4/22/56)
Marbled Godwit - 2 4/26 Denver (LW,C.Car.) (4/22/56)
Black-necked Stilt - 3 5/26 Mile-high Lakes (25 mi. NE of Denver) (HW)
Wilson's Phalarope - 2 4/20 Boulder (BBC); 3 4/26 Denver (LW,C.Car.) (4/21/56)
Northern Phalarope - 2 5/11 Mile-high Lakes *
Black Tern - 2 5/4 Ft. Collins (J&MD) (5/7/56)
Band-tailed Pigeon - 3 5/18 Drake (JA) *
Poorwill - 1 5/16 Denver (Mrs. M. R. Markley, reported to TM) (5/6/56)
Common Nighthawk - 1 5/23 Bonny Reservoir (RO); 1 5/24 Platteville (Mrs.JL)(5/19/56)
Broad-tailed Hummingbird - 1 5/5 Red Rocks (RO); 1 5/5 City Park, Denver (TM & Club trip) (5/12/56,5/13/55)
Eastern Kingbird - 5/11 (6 Spring Counts) (5/2/56)
Western Kingbird - 1 5/6 Morrison (DT); 2 5/8 Barr L. (RO) (4/6/56,4/29/55)
Cassin's Kingbird - 5/14 NE Colo (LJL)
Eastern Phoebe - 3 5/11 Crook vicinity * (4 reports 5/18-19) (5/2/56)
Empidonax - Least - 1 5/18 *; Western - 1 5/18 Longmont *; 2 5/19 Colo Spgs *, (5/12/56); Gray - 1 5/19 Colo Spgs * ; unidentified, many 5/18 *
Western Pewee - 1 5/11 Mile-high Lakes * (5/19/56)
Olive-sided Flycatcher - 1 5/18 Bonny Dam *; 5/19, at Colo Spgs & Boulder
Violet-green Swallow - 1 4/27 Ft. Collins (J&MD) (4/21/56,5/8/55)
Tree Swallow - approx. 500 4/27 Ft. Collins vicinity (J&MD) (4/29/56)
Bank Swallow - 1 4/27 Ft. Collins (J&MD) (4/28/56)
Rough-winged Swallow - 3 4/27 Ft. Collins (J&MD) (4/26/56)
Cliff Swallow - 4/27 Denver (LW,C.Car.) (4/28/56)
House Wren - 1 4/28 Barr L. (Club trip); 4/28 Ft. Collins (J&MD) (4/19/56)
Marsh Wren - 5/11 *
Catbird - 1 5/13 SE Denver (TM) (4/13/56)
Wood Thrush - 1 5/18 NE Colo *
Hermit Thrush - 1 4/28 Barr L. * (5/6/56)
Swainson's Thrush - 3 5/3 Ft. Morgan (J&MD); other 5/4,5,8; none 5/11, unusually common 5/18 * (5/11/56,5/7/55)
Veery - 5/18 * (5/12/56)
Bell's Vireo - 1 5/18 NE Colo *
Solitary Vireo - 1 5/11 Platteville *
Red-eyed Vireo - 5/18 * (5/19/56)
Warbling Vireo - 5/11 *
Black-and-White Warbler - 2 5/18 * (5/19/56)
Tennessee Warbler - 5/18-19 *
Orange-crowned Warbler - 5/4 Durango (OR); 5/5 Morrison (RO) (4/28/56)
Nashville Warbler - 5/19 Colo Spgs * (5/15/56)
Virginia's Warbler - 5/4 Durango (OR); 1 5/12 Boulder (C.Crone) (5/5/56)
Yellow Warbler - 5/7 Ft. Collins (J&MD); 5/8 Denver (TM); arrived in Denver in numbers 5/11 (5/5/56)
Myrtle Warbler - Ft. Morgan (EH); 3 reports 4/27-28 (Should be 4/15 Ft. Morgan)
Audubon's Warbler - 8 4/27 Denver (LW,C.Car.); 4/30 Durango (OR)
Townsend's Warbler - 1 5/24 Wheatridge (RO) (only report received)

Chestnut-sided Warbler - 1 5/18 (LC); 1 5/23-24,26 (OW,OT) Boulder (5/11/56)
Black-polled Warbler - 1 5/11 Crook *; 1 5/21, 2 5/26 Ft. Collins (J&MD); 3 others 5/18-19 * (5/5/56)
Ovenbird - 1 5/18 * (5/11/56)
Northern Waterthrush - 1 5/11 NE Colo *; 5 reports 5/18-19 * (5/5/56)
Macgillivray's Warbler - 5/5 Red Rocks Park (RO); many 5/18 * (5/5/56)
Yellow-breasted Chat - 4 reports 5/18 * (5/11/56)
Wilson's (Pileolated) Warbler - 4/15 Ft. Morgan (EH); next report 5/11 * (5/6/56)
American Redstart - 7 males 5/18 NE Colo (J&MD); others 5/19 *,23,25
Bobolink - 1 5/18 (J&MD)*, 5/20 (LJL) NE Colo; 3 5/22 Colo Spgs (AOC)*; 2 5/23 Bonny Res. (RO); 1 6/2 Weldona (Club trip) (Unusual numbers)
Orchard Oriole-1 5/19, 2 5/23 (RO) Bonny Res.
Baltimore Oriole - 3 5/18 NE Colo *; 1 5/19 *, 1 5/23 (RO) Bonny Res.
Bullock's Oriole - 5/8 Durango (OR); 2 5/11 Platteville *; 5/12 Ft. Morgan (EH) (5/9/56)
Rusty Blackbird - 5/18 NE Colo (LJL) *
Brewer's Blackbird - 40 4/14 Henry's Lake (W of Littleton) (DT) (3/16/56,3/12/55)
Brown-headed Cowbird - 1 5/4 Ft. Collins (J&MD); 3 5/9 Platteville (Mrs.JL); (reported as unusually common 5/11 and later) (4/15/56)
Western Tanager - 5/7 Durango (OR); approx. 50 5/11 NE Colo (J&MD) * 5/18 elsewhere (5/7/56)
Rose-breasted Grosbeak - 5 5/19 Colo Spgs * (5/12/56), 1 5/25 Timnath (DD); 1 5/30 Ft. Collins (J&MD)
Black-headed Grosbeak - 5/5 Durango (OR); 5/6 Boulder (C.Crone) (5/9/56)
Blue Grosbeak - 5/19: 1 Bonny Res., 1 Cherry Cr. Dam (8 mi. SE of Denver), 3 Colo Spgs * (5/19/56)
Lazuli Bunting - 2 5/11, 3 5/16 Red Rocks Park (DT) (4/30/56)
Lesser Goldfinch - 1 5/19 Colo Spgs *
Lark Bunting - 2 5/2 Platteville, 1 5/3 Eaton (Mrs.JL); numerous by 5/11 (5/1/56)
Grasshopper Sparrow - 4 5/18 NE Colo (J&MD); 1 5/18 Weldona (HR) *
Baird's Sparrow - 3 5/12 Boulder (C.Crone)
Lark Sparrow - 1 4/30 Platteville (Mrs.JL); 1 5/2 SE Denver (TM) (4/19/56)
Clay-colored Sparrow - 5/11 Boulder (BBC), Platteville (Mrs.JL) and Crook (J&MD) (4/21/56)
Brewer's Sparrow - 1 4/28 Platteville (Mrs.JL) (4/30/56)

Large numbers and unusual species:
Eared Grebe - 43 5/3 Stoneham (Weld Co.), 18 5/4 Ft. Collins (J&MD). This species unusually abundant this spring.
White Pelican - approx. 75 mid-April (reported to Mrs.JL), 50 5/18 *, 40 5/19 (MrsJL) 25 5/23 (JA) Latham Res.
Snow Goose - 1 imm. 5/11 *
Bufflehead - 45 (11 Occ.) 5/4 Ft. Collins (J&MD)
Krider's Red-tailed Hawk - 1 5/3 Beecher's Island (J&MD)
Marbled Godwit - 42 4/28 Barr L. (Club trip) (Unusually numerous this spring. 7 reports 4/26-5/11.)
Northern Phalarope - 60 5/19 Mile-high Lakes (AMB) (Unusually numerous. 6 reports 5/11-19)
Franklin's Gull - approx. 150 (4 occ.) 4/27 Ft. Collins vicinity (J&MD)
Bonaparte's Gull - approx. 130 (5 occ.) 4/27 " " " "
Forster's Tern - approx. 53 (3 occ.) 5/4 " " " "
Black Tern - *
Chimney Swift - 3 5/18 *; 5 6/7 NW Denver (DT)
Eastern Phoebe - near foothills 2 reports 5/18 (1&2), 1 5/19 *; 2 5/26 Boulder (C.Crone) (Unusually numerous)
Purple Martin - pair 5/23 Berthoud
Mountain Chickadee - 2 5/5 Platteville (20 mi. east of foothills - late date); 3 5/18 (Mrs.JL)
Sedge Wren (Short-billed Marsh) - 1 5/19 Bonny Dam *
Veery - 25-30 5/22-23 Bonny Res. (RO)
Eastern Bluebird - 4 5/19 Colo Spgs (AOS)

Golden-crowned Kinglet - 1 5/19 Weldona - dry lands (HR)
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher - 1 5/19 Bonny Res. *
Grace's Warbler - 1 5/18 Sedgwick (J&MD) * ; 1 5/19 Garden of Gods, Colo Spgs (MS)*; 1 5/19 Rock Creek Canyon (S. of Colo Spgs) (HW,JW)*
Summer Tanager - 1 5/19 Hygiene (MT); 1 5/29 Berthoud (JA)
Pine Grosbeak - 1 9 mi. east of Boulder on Plains (BBC)*
White-throated Sparrow - 2 5/18 NE Colo (J&MD)*
Fox Sparrow - 1 4/18 Denver Federal Center (DT); 2 5/19 Colo Spgs (AOS)*
Swamp Sparrow - 1 5/18 NE Colo (J&MD)*

* * * *

WELDONA NOTES

by Howard Rollin

May 1, 1957 - The past month has seen a great change in bird movements here. Most of the usual migrants have come in, but all are in very small numbers and some have not been seen yet. There has been a break in the long drouth, with about three inches of moisture and possibly more, as it was difficult to get a measurement from the wet snow that came April 2. The continuing cold certainly has affected bird life here. Grass is slow in starting and the hills are still the old dead brown color. Insects are scarce, as is other food and most birds just pass through.
May 15 - We have, fortunately, missed the big floods and so far have had just good, soaking rains that have been, and are, doing a world of good. There were 3.2 inches the past week. The heaviest was yesterday evening, when .8 inch fell in about an hour, both rain and hail. In some places the hail was very heavy and the hills and draws are still white this morning. The ground was covered here with pea-sized hail a wonderful amount of moisture for a change.

June 2, 1957 - Rain and snowfall continued through the month of May, and the rain gauge measured 5.2 inches for the month. As the heavy snow of the 15th plugged the gauge, an accurate measurement was not possible. The total for 1957 to date has been 9.4 inches, more than all of last year's fall. The total is actually more than this, as the early snows were not measured. There have been no floods and nearly all the moisture has been of great benefit. Bird life is still on the short side and many usual migrants have not been seen at all.

July 1, 1957 - The fine rains of early spring continued through the month of June, a little more than 3 inches being recorded here. The rainy spring affected nesting here, so that all species are late with their nesting and no young on the wing have been seen except 3 or 4 Horned Larks. The Lark Sparrow and the Lark Bunting normally have young ready to fly at this time, but now are still with eggs or very small young. No warblers other than the Black-throated Green mentioned below have been seen, and several other species have not been noted this year. Soapweed is now in full bloom, a month late.

(The following notes are condensed from Mr. Rollin's four reports:)

Ducks - only one individual seen, probably a Mallard, flying down the creek. (All other water birds absent)
Red-tailed Hawk - 1 6/22
Hawk - size of Red-tailed, with entirely white tail, 6/8 (Krider's Red-tailed?)
Hawk - size of Red-tailed, generally brown with distinctly red shoulders, underparts lightly barred, tail nearly all white with some red in center and indistinct barring near end, 5/22
Swainson's Hawk - first 1 4/15, again 4/18, remains in small numbers
Rough-legged Hawk - last, 4/14
Golden Eagle - 1 or 2 occasionally (absent in June)
Marsh Hawk - present in small numbers
American Sparrow Hawk - 1 5/8, 22

Ring-necked Pheasant - 1 4/15 (15 mi. SE); 1 4/21 first here since last summer; increasing in May, 3 5/14, 1 5/27; none, June
Killdeer - few; most seen, 6 4/18; no young by 7/1
Upland Plover - 1 6/6, 8
Franklin's Gull - 1 4/15, very unusual so early
Gull - 2 unidentified, size of Franklin's, grayish, in early May
Mourning Dove - first, 2 4/10, 12; 8 4/26; increasing 5/11, common 5/15
Horned Owl - 3 young in nest 4/1, only 2 5/1
Long-eared Owl - first 1 4/16
Barn Owl - first 1 5/29, 30, present through June
Burrowing Owl - 1 5/30, first since 1954; 6/2, 6; 1 6/25 5 mi. south
Common Nighthawk - first 2 5/28, 29; common, June
Red-shafted Flicker - occasional, before 5/1
Red-headed Woodpecker - 1 6/18 (rare)
Eastern Kingbird - first 2 5/7; common 5/24; 1 6/28-7/1
Western Kingbird - first 2 5/11, 14; nesting, June
Say's Phoebe - first 1 4/10, 13; common 4/21; fixing old nest 4/25; eggs in second nest 6/1 (1st destroyed), young 7/1. Early morning of 6/25 Phoebes calling everywhere, none next day.
Horned Lark - 5/1 not numerous, nesting, singing commonly on ground and wing; first young heard 6/2; many still nesting 7/1
Rough-winged Swallow - first 2 5/8; next 5/18; more common than usual (June)
Barn Swallow - first 2 5/30; next 6/5-8
Cliff Swallow - 1 6/15
Blue Jay - 1 6/23 (rare)
American Magpie - in usual numbers; most have nests built or old ones repaired 5/1
American Crow - 1 4/6, 16
Rock Wren - common 5/1 through 7/1
Mockingbird - common by 5/15; 3 or 4 pairs within mile of buildings, 1 nesting, 6/1; second nest, 7/1
Catbird - first 1 5/15
Sage Thrasher - first 1 4/5, next (singing) 4/26; one individual remained until mid-May
Brown Thrasher - present 6/1; nesting 7/1 second time in 45 years
American Robin - first 4 4/10, 12; 1 4/13, 15, 26; 1 5/9-13
Olive-backed Thrush - 1 5/22
Mountain Bluebird - 2 4/1; 150 4/15 (last date)
Golden-crowned Kinglet - 1 5/19 (first spring record)
Ruby-crowned Kinglet - 1 4/28 (first spring record)
Loggerhead Shrike - first 1 4/17, 18; remained, became common about 5/15; last 6/9
Common Starling - 1 4/13; 5-10 4/15; 1 or 2 occasionally to 7/1; most seen, 10 6/24
Black-throated Green Warbler - 1 5/13, the only warbler seen this spring to 7/1; a new record
House Sparrow - 1 or 2 occasionally; 2 5/12-14
Western Meadowlark - unusually numerous, well distributed in fields and pastures
Red-winged Blackbird - 1 4/5, 55 4/6, 1 4/10; occasional to 5/8 (6 or 8), 1 5/13,18; none since 5/18
Orchard Oriole - first year male in full song 7/1, first record here
Bullock's Oriole - apparently nesting or preparing to nest 7/1
Brewer's Blackbird - first 4 4/21, 22; few about until 5/16 (3)
Crow Blackbird - first 6 4/17, 22; few about until May, more seen this spring than in several years; 1 5/11, 3 5/20, 1 6/2, 6
Cowbird - first 1 4/18, 19; first female 4/24; present in small numbers and common 5/13 through 7/1
Western Tanager - 1 5/21 (very rare here)
Blue Grosbeak - first 1 5/24; occasional in June
American Goldfinch - first 1 4/16; 3 4/24; (species?) 2 5/30, 31
Lark Bunting - first 1 5/3, 4; first flock 10-15 5/7; first female 5/11, common by 5/14; scattered about pastures, many more than last year
Savannah Sparrow - 1 4/23 (very rare)
Grasshopper Sparrow - first 1 5/18; 1 6/16; a few nest every year in sage brush

Vesper Sparrow - first 1 4/21 (a late date); 1 4/22; 8 4/25; 12 4/26; few about
to remain until 5/26
Lark Sparrow - first 12 5/7, 8 (late - 4/27/56, 5/7/53); common 5/13; more common
than in last few years (7/1)
White-winged Junco - none this year
Slate-colored Junco - last 4/21
Oregon Junco
Pink-sided - 1 4/13, first since 3/22; last 4/17
Montana - last 4/28
Shufeldt's - last 4/17
(25 or 30 Juncos, mostly Montanas, left 4/17, except 3 or 4)
Gray-headed Junco - 1 5/7 (very rare)
Chipping Sparrow - first 1 5/12; 1 5/26; 1 6/18 (late date)
Clay-colored Sparrow - first 1 4/25; 1 4/30; 3 5/7; few until 5/22; 1 6/29 (very late)
Brewer's Sparrow - first 1 4/25; here in usual numbers (7/1)
White-crowned Sparrow - 1 4/22, 1st since 3/21; 15-20 4/26, common with many singing
until 5/17; last 5/20
McCown's Longspur - 5 4/3, increasing 4/17, 18 to 15 or 20; last 4/19

The following species, usually occurring here in the spring, have not been seen: Long-billed Curlew (first time in 10 or more years), Poorwill, House Wren, Yellow-headed Blackbird, (Spotted) Rufous-sided Towhee and Song Sparrow.

* * * *

Corrections on BIRDS OF THE MONTH:
First dates: (Insert between Osprey and Long-billed Curlew)
Sandhill Crane - 8 4/20 NE Colo. (LJL) (4/16/56)

Large numbers and unusual species: (Insert between Chimney Swift and Eastern Phoebe)
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher - 1 6/7 near Ft. Collins (with 2 Eastern and 1 Western
Kingbirds (JH, J&MD)

* * * *

1957 STATE-WIDE SPRING COUNT

In keeping with the unusual spring weather and the resultant unusual spring bird migration, our spring count differs considerably from those of the past two years. As it was evident that the dates chosen for the counts in 1955 and 1956 (May 21 and 19, respectively) were a few days later than the general migration peaks, it was decided to hold this year's count earlier, on Saturday, May 11. However, it was realized during the preceding few days that the migration was much delayed and an attempt was made to notify all expected participants of the change to May 18. The result is a total of 24 reports from four days of the two weekends. The seven reports for May 11 included 148 species; one, May 12, 57 species; 12, May 18, 194 species; and 4, May 19, 155 species. May 11-12 species combined totalled 152; May 18-19, 212; and the total for the four days was 228. The total for the best day, May 18 (194) compares well with the one-day totals of 190 for 1955 and 213 for 1956. The three-year total for May 21, 1955, May 19, 1956 and May 18, 1957 is 250 species, with an additional six species turned up during the other three days reported this year, for a total of 256. Perhaps the best comparison for the two weekends is furnished by the May 11 reports, with 148 species found in 71 party-hours and those for May 19, with 155 species in 66 party-hours.

Repeated counts numbered 1 and 9 by the Douglasses, and 8 and 22 by Catherine Crone, also report several more species May 18-19 than were observed May 11-12. Unfortunately, no good comparison of numbers of individuals can be made as several parties did not report numbers of the more numerous species.

In keeping with the criteria suggested for determination of the validity of records by the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs; (see Colorado Bird Notes, September, 1955) we have omitted from the following lists, with apologies to those

reporting them, two species reported without substantiating information. One, the Short-billed Marsh Wren, has been positively identified in Colorado only once, in the San Luis Valley, in 1907. The other, the Sharp-tailed Sparrow, has never, to our knowledge, been reported here; as its usual range extends west to Illinois, it is as likely to be found as a straggler in eastern Colorado as several other species which are definitely known to have occurred here. There were three reports from the eastern part of the state of Grace's Warbler, a species occurring normally only in the southwestern part. This species might be confused with a more unusual species, the eastern Yellow-throated Warbler (Sycamore subspecies) a specimen of which was found dead at Longmont in 1956, the first Colorado record. Unusual out-of-season reports were of Great Gray Shrike, Rusty Blackbird, Harris's Sparrow and Lapland Longspur in considerable numbers and a single American Tree Sparrow.

Many reports received were properly broken up into habitats, as requested, with separate lists for wet land, dry land, etc. It is regretted that lack of space forced us to combine the lists for the several habitats in each report, but this information is still desirable for use in other projects. The cooperation of all those who participated in and contributed to the success of this count is appreciated.

The 24 reports received are listed in the following tables, separately for the two weekends. Reports for each day are arranged from northeast to southwest. Following are the localities and observers:

May 11

1 - John & Margaret Douglass - New Raymer (Weld Co.) to Julesburg
2 - Donald G. Davis - Timnath and vicinity
3 - Mrs. John Lett - Platteville and vicinity, Latham Reservoir
4 - Mr. & Mrs. H. B. Alsebrook, Venola Bivans, Mr. & Mrs. W. C. Sullivan (Boulder Bird Club) - Boulder, Hygiene, Lyons, Estes Park
5 - Carolyn Carpenter, Phyllis Caswell, Sadie Morrison, Lois Webster - City Park and Buff Lake (Denver) to Barr Lake and Mile-high Lakes
6 - Thompson Marsh - Cheesman Park (Denver) to Aurora vicinity and Cherry Cr. Dam
7 - Larry Crowley, John Flavin - East Portal (Rollinsville), Boulder, Golden, Marston Lake, Cherry Hills, prairies SE of Denver

May 12

8 - Catherine Crone - Boulder County

May 18

9 - John & Margaret Douglass - Julesburg, Ovid, Jumbo Reservoir, Sterling
10 - Mr. & Mrs. L. Jack Lyon - NE Colorado: Logan, Phillips and Sedgwick Counties
11 - Carolyn Carpenter, Phyllis Caswell, Sadie Morrison, Lois Webster - Denver to Franktown to Burlington and Bonny Reservoir.
12 - John Chapin - Denver to Bonny Reservoir
13 - Howard Rollin - dryland ranch near Weldona
14 - Jay Arnold, Harold Dunning - Berthoud, Lyons, Estes Park, Drake, Loveland
15 - Mrs. C. N. Collister, Mrs. Fred Fox - Longmont and vicinity
16 - Mr. & Mrs. H. B. Alsebrook, Mr. & Mrs. W. C. Sullivan - Boulder and Lyons vicin.
17 - Jean & Parnell White - S. Platte River (S. Denver) to Barr Lake and vicinity
18 - Wm. Campbell, Ann Condit, Leonard Dieckman, Richard Goode, Leonard Licht, Cal Royall, Donald Thatcher - Red Rocks Park, Bergen Park, Idaho Springs, Echo Lake, Genesee Mountain Park, Bowles Lake and vicinity
19 - Ruth Wheeler and 9 others (scheduled Club Trip) - Plum Creek at Sedalia
20 - Oppie Reames - Durango and vicinity

May 19

21 - Carolyn Carpenter, Phyllis Caswell, Sadie Morrison, Lois Webster - Burlington and Bonny Reservoir to Denver
22 - Catherine Crone - Boulder County
23 - Thompson Marsh and 2 others (scheduled Club Trip) - Cherry Creek Dam, SE of Denver
24 - Mrs. T. L. Adams, Mrs. G. L. Catlett, Mrs. Kenneth Ewing, Mrs. L. B. Field,

Larry Field, Mrs. R. O. McMichael, Mrs. Noble Miller, Mrs. William Noble, Mr. & Mrs. L. J. Pickering, Mr. & Mrs. Frank Sample, Mr. & Mrs. George Sinton, Mahlon Speers, Mr. & Mrs. H. J. Weberbauer (Aiken Ornithological Society) - Colorado Springs and vicinity
x indicates uncounted species.

- Donald M. Thatcher

Report Number	May 11 1	2	3	4	5	6	7	May 12 8
Horned Grebe	2							
Eared Grebe	22				15		15	1
Western Grebe	4	x			8		1	
Pied-billed Grebe		2		1			3	3
White Pelican			4					
Double-crested Cormorant	9	10	30		1			
Great Blue Heron	4	17		8	3		2	17
Snowy Egret	1	3	1	2				
Black-crowned Night Heron					2			5
Bittern, (American)			2					
White-faced Ibis					1			
Canada Goose					21	4		
Snow Goose		1						
Mallard	17	x	10	4	48	10	x	22
Gadwall	77		8	20	16	3	7	41
Widgeon		1	2		2			
Pintail	3			1	20			
Green-winged Teal	16	5			7			
Blue-winged Teal	87	x	2	12	2	4	4	19
Cinnamon Teal		x		2				2
Shoveller	70	13	25		50		18	19
Redhead	17	1	2		5		2	6
Canvasback	1							
Lesser Scaup	24	3		15	8		7	11
Bufflehead	1			3			15	2
Ruddy Duck	75			5	217		25	18
Turkey Vulture							1	
Goshawk				1			1	
Cooper's Hawk						1		
Red-tailed Hawk	1						3	
Swainson's Hawk	3				1	1	1	
Golden Eagle			1					
Marsh Hawk	6	1	2			3		
Prairie Falcon	1						3	
Merlin	1							
Sparrow Hawk	7	9	10	13	5	8	x	8
Bobwhite	10		2					
Ring-necked Pheasant	14	4	4	1	8	10	5	7
Virginia Rail		1				1		
American Coot	80	19	10	10	65	1	x	25
Killdeer	30	24	18	12	5	5	3	10
Common Snipe				1	2			
Spotted Sandpiper	12	6			1	2	1	
Willet		29		2				
Greater Yellowlegs		1			1			
Lesser Yellowlegs		8	2				1	
Pectoral Sandpiper	2							
Baird's Sandpiper	13				1			
Least Sandpiper	6						6	
Long-billed Dowitcher		36			40			
Stilt Sandpiper	2							

Report Number	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Western Sandpiper	1							
Marbled Godwit		14						
American Avocet	11	35	2	6	24		2	15
Wilson's Phalarope	45	15	5	7	170		21	21
Northern Phalarope					2			
Ring-billed Gull	24			1			10	2
Franklin's Gull	31	2					3	
Forster's Tern	1	21		3				4
Black Tern	175				200			
Mourning Dove	58	14	26	50	68	30	x	98
Screech Owl							1	
Horned Owl	2		5			1	2	
Burrowing Owl	2					1		2
Long-eared Owl						5		
White-throated Swift							x	
Belted Kingfisher	4	1	1	1	1		1	
Yellow-shafted Flicker	1							
Red-shafted Flicker	5	8	23	x	16	4	x	9
Lewis's Woodpecker						2	2	1
Common Sapsucker							5	
Hairy Woodpecker	2						1	
Downy Woodpecker	1	1	3					
Eastern Kingbird	7	2	1		1	1	1	
Western Kingbird	8		6	1	5	2		
Eastern Phoebe	3							
Say's Phoebe	2			3	6	3	1	3
Western Pewee					1			
Horned Lark	19		6	1		3	x	4
Violet-green Swallow				15			x	20
Tree Swallow							x	
Rough-winged Swallow	203	2			1	1	4	
Barn Swallow	140	6	14	30	13	1	x	15
Cliff Swallow	1			1			2	
Blue Jay	23	1	2					
Steller's Jay				12				
Black-billed Magpie	8	27	21	25	26	37	x	43
American Raven							2	
American Crow	8	4	1				1	2
Clark's Nutcracker							x	
Black-capped Chickadee	17		3		1			
Mountain Chickadee				1			x	
White-breasted Nuthatch							1	
Red-breasted Nuthatch							1	
Brown Creeper	1						5	
American Dipper							1	
House Wren	15		14					
Long-billed Marsh Wren		1						
Canyon Wren							8.	
Rock Wren			1			14	2	
Mockingbird			2					
Brown Thrasher	21		2		1			
American Robin	11	4	8	x	24	12	x	15
Hermit Thrush	2		2					
Olive-backed Thrush	5		1	1	1	3		
Western Bluebird							1	
Mountain Bluebird				2			4	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet				1	1		x	
Loggerhead Shrike	12	2	2	1			2	3
Starling	2	6	42	x	31	13	x	53
Solitary Vireo			1					

Report Number	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Warbling Vireo	1							
Orange-crowned Warbler	13						1	
Yellow Warbler	6			2	2	1	3	2
Myrtle Warbler	14			3	13		1	
Audubon's Warbler	26		1	7	13		x	7
Black-polled Warbler	1							
Northern Waterthrush	1							
Yellowthroat	3		1	4	4	1		2
Pileolated Warbler					2			
House Sparrow	x	4		x	40	49	x	100
Western Meadowlark	45	29	45	x	30	12	x	78
Yellow-headed Blackbird	63	100	30	25	158	11	x	19
Red-winged Blackbird	x	x	x	200	64	116	x	614
Bullock's Oriole			2					
Brewer's Blackbird	1		40	15	19	27	x	118
Purple Grackle	37	1	8	1	x	22	1	10
Brown-headed Cowbird	35	1	17	14	5		1	15
Western Tanager	53							
Black-headed Grosbeak					1			
Cassin's Finch				2				
House Finch		2	20	x	2	9	x	5
Pine Grosbeak				1				
Pine Siskin					2		1	30
American Goldfinch	8						25	
Green-tailed Towhee			5		2	1		
(Spot.)Rufous-sided Towhee	4		2	1	1	1	3	
Lark Bunting	28		8				1	
Savannah Sparrow				3		1		4
Vesper Sparrow	1	1		2			1	5
Lark Sparrow	6		8	4		1		3
Oregon Junco (Pink-sided)			1		1		1	
Gray-headed Junco				6			x	
Chipping Sparrow	52			11	60	3	10	8
Clay-colored Sparrow	24		1					
Brewer's Sparrow				3				4
White-crowned Sparrow	28		5	5	1	1	1	5
Song Sparrow			3	1	1		4	4
Number of Species	91	52	61	63	68	45	84	57
Observers	2	1	1	4	4	1	2	1
Party Hours	15	6	8	12	11	5	14	6

						May 18							May 19			
Report Number	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Horned Grebe	1															
Eared Grebe	4					15	10		6					5		1
Western Grebe	11		1				12									
Pied-billed Grebe	1		1	1		7	2	4		2				2		1
White Pelican	1						50									
D-c Cormorant	13	8	10	2		2	74	1		8			2	2		8
Great Blue Heron	8			7		5	12	16	1	2				7	1	2
Snowy Egret								2								2
B-c Night Heron	9		12	1		2		1								
American Bittern							1	1							2	
Canada Goose										60			7		6	
Mallard	18	13	6	12		x	35	25	24	x			8	31	10	32
Gadwall	66	17	16	40		x	46	x	3	30				8	8	10
American Widgeon	23		1	4			2						2		2	
Pintail	1	2	2	2			1		21	1			4	4		

Report Number	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Green-winged Teal			3				4		6							
Blue-winged Teal	74	39	10	60		x	24	x	23	12			11	21	2	30
Cinnamon Teal							2	11	9	1				2		3
Shoveller	73	7	30	50		x	15	x	35	8			20	1		19
Redhead	43		16	12		x	3			15			2	7		6
Canvasback	1	1	1	12		x			1				9	1		
Lesser Scaup	5	3	19	30		x	14	x	8	12			15	6		22
Bufflehead	3									2			2	1		
Ruddy Duck	100	3	4	12		x	28		90	30			1	26		13
Common Merganser	1															
R-b Merganser								1						2		
Turkey Vulture			2	1		2						5				1
Sharp-shinned Hawk						1										
Cooper's Hawk				1				1				1				3
Red-tailed Hawk			1	1		1				1		1			1	2
Swainson's Hawk		1	4	3	1		1			1			4			2
Rough-legged Hawk		1	1													1
Golden Eagle					1	1	1			2						5
Bald Eagle																4
Marsh Hawk	8	3	1	1	1				2				4		1	1
Am. Sparrow Hawk	2		5	2		7	13	x	4	8	2	2	1	7	1	28
Bobwhite	2			5												
Scaled Quail																2
Ring-necked Pheasant	6	31	11	12		2	6	2	3	8			4	11	5	5
Sora								1								
American Coot	110	3	2	40		15	16	1	30	20			1	9	1	5
Killdeer	21	10	15	5	3	5	11	x	8	6	1		9	14	2	15
Black-bellied Plover				1												
Common Snipe								1								1
Long-billed Curlew	1	4														
Spotted Sandpiper	3			3		2	2	2	1	2		2	5			10
Solitary Sandpiper		15														
Greater Yellowlegs		2		8												
Lesser Yellowlegs	6					3										
Baird's Sandpiper										2						
L-b Dowitcher	41	9							22							
Stilt Sandpiper	37			12												
Western Sandpiper	2															
Sanderling				1												
American Avocet	2					20	20	7	97	2				3		2
Wilson's Phalarope	282	7	1	50		150	8	26	227	4				3	4	75
Northern Phalarope	4		4			15	2									
California Gull							1									
Ring-billed Gull	11			15			2			30			3			35
Franklin's Gull	47	2	38	200		1	2						1			5
Forster's Tern	8					5	2	4	7	1				4		
Black Tern	406	56	3	400		7	40			50			1			8
Band-tailed Pigeon						3										
Mourning Dove	89	35	82	200	12	x	121	x	67	x	4	3	21	254	34	152
Horned Owl		4	1	3	4		1	1	1	1			1		1	2
Burrowing Owl	3	1		1			1	1	1							
Poorwill	1															
Chimney Swift	3															
White-throated Swift						10	14	x	21	6						152
B-t Hummingbird								1		3	1	14				4
Belted Kingfisher	7			3		1		2			2	1				1
Yellow-shaft.Flicker	1			2									1			
Red-shafted Flicker	2		5			x	13	x	4	x		3	1	12	3	33
R-h Woodpecker	1		3	8									3			4

Report Number	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Lewis's Woodpecker							3	1				8		1		3
Williamson's Sapsucker										1						
Hairy Woodpecker				1												3
Downy Woodpecker	2			1			3			1	1	2				6
Eastern Kingbird	24	6	12	200		x	2	3	4	5			1	5	2	21
Western Kingbird	17	14	27	200	3	x	4		9				10			20
Crested Flycatcher				1												
Eastern Phoebe	2						2			1				1		
Say's Phoebe	1		2		3	x	5	1	4	2		1	3	2	2	9
Least Flycatcher	1															
Western Flycatcher							1	1								2
Gray Flycatcher																1
Unident. Empidonax	5									1		3			1	
Western Pewee	4		1	2								1				6
O-sided Flycatcher			1	1										1		5
Horned Lark	14	34	58	32	20	1							6	1		35
V-green Swallow						75		3		30	3	2				22
Tree Swallow								2		2						
Bank Swallow			2			x		2	12	6						14
R-winged Swallow	39	25	2	50	1	x		11	4	12		20				6
Barn Swallow	10	1	1	50		x	20	x	13	20			2	17	2	21
Cliff Swallow	2		1	2		x	10	x	8	1						33
Blue Jay	19	2	2	100							2		5			
Steller's Jay			9			4				2		1				64
Scrub Jay			1							1		9				40
Black-billed Magpie	11	12	20	60	5	x	36	x	35	x	x	13	4	52	12	208
American Raven										1						
White-necked Raven				1									1			
American Crow	6	12	4	100		3	3	1		4			3			32
Pinon Jay												16				8
Clark's Nutcracker										2						
B-c Chickadee	5		3	1		2	3			2				1		13
Mountain Chickadee			3			2				4						5
Common Bushtit												x				
White-b. Nuthatch						1										20
Pygmy Nuthatch						3				22						28
American Dipper						1				2						
House Wren	18	1	2	16		3	2	3		4	3	5	3			9
L-b Marsh Wren				1			1									
Canyon Wren										5						
Rock Wren	2				3	1	1			1						6
Mockingbird			1		4								1			2
Catbird	8		1	1		1		1		2			2	1		6
Brown Thrasher	28	3	4	12	1			1					5			2
American Robin	26	1	20	1		x	51	x	9	x	6	18	3	13	19	129
Wood Thrush	1															
Hermit Thrush	3									6	1		1	1	1	1
Olive-backed Thrush	40		2	40		2	4	2	2	10	4		1	6	1	8
Veery	3						1									
Common Bluebird			2													4
Western Bluebird										5						13
Mountain Bluebird			4			5		1		10						45
Townsend's Solitaire										2	1	2				4
R-c Kinglet				1						1		19				
Water Pipit			1			300				6						3
Cedar Waxwing												4				
Great Gray Shrike																3
Loggerhead Shrike	19	16	43	5	3	x	6	3	2	1			3	1		6
Common Starling	6	6	9	40		x	90	x	45	4	2			x	4	160
Bell's Vireo	1															

Report Number	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Solitary Vireo											3					2
Red-eyed Vireo	1						2									
Warbling Vireo	2			1		1										1
Black & White Warbler	2															
Tennessee Warbler			1										1			
Orange-c Warbler	13		1	2			2			3	1	8				
Nashville Warbler																1
Virginia's Warbler									1	6	1	2			1	7
Parula Warbler				1												
Yellow Warbler	25		5	20		7	16	3	10		4	5	6	33	8	79
Myrtle Warbler	7	1	1			15		1		1	1					16
Audubon's Warbler	12	4	7	30		12	8	5	8	20	4	18	2	35	9	109
Grace's Warbler	1															2
Black-poll. Warbler	3						1									2
Palm Warbler				2												
Ovenbird	1															
North. Waterthrush	1			1					1					1		2
Macgill. Warbler	6		1				2	1		2		2	1	5		4
Yellowthroat	19	9	1	20		1	2	1	2	1			5	12	2	14
Yellow-breasted Chat	1	1	1				1	1								
Pileolated Warbler	1			1			2	3				5	1	1	2	23
American Redstart	7			1												4
House Sparrow	x	54	18	20	3	x	77	x	97	x		35	9	x	21	222
Bobolink	1			1												
Western Meadowlark	53	64	58	200	15	x	24	x	42	x	4	4	13	195	18	157
Yellow-h.Blackbird	214	16	6			x	45	75	134	26				63	1	63
Red-wing.Blackbird	x	65	23	400	8	x	105	x	112	x		14	8	415	9	214
Orchard Oriole				1									1			
Baltimore Oriole	3												1			
Bullock's Oriole	6		3	2				1	6	1	2	4	1		2	14
Brewer's Blackbird	1		22			x	45	x	18	x	5	28		25	15	207
Rusty Blackbird		9														
Purple Grackle	60	21	8	8		x	44	4	2		1		2	1	1	39
Brown-h Cowbird	8	14	9	80	12		5							20		14
Western Tanager	1					2	1	4	8	1	3	24		18	1	48
Cardinal	1															
Rose-breasted Grosbeak				1												5
Black-headed Grosbeak	4		3	2			2	1			4	27				21
Blue Grosbeak													1		1	3
Lazuli Bunting			2	2			4	1			3		3	11		9
Evening Grosbeak							1					85				44
Cassin's Finch						1	1	3				7				2
House Finch	2		x			x	28	x	3	2	12	3	1	8	9	156
Pine Siskin	2					x	23	17		4	x	80		63		14
American Goldfinch	9		8	2		x	33				2	90	30	15		17
Lesser Goldfinch																1
Red Crossbill			5													
Green-tailed Towhee			1				1	2	1	2	1	19	1	2	1	3
(Spotted) R-s Towhee	11		4	6		1	2	2	1	30	6					50
Lark Bunting	3	214	117	1000	50	75	2		2				143			2
Savannah Sparrow			1			1		2								
Baird's Sparrow											6			5		2
Grasshopper Sparrow	4				1											
Vesper Sparrow	4	1	24	2	1	40	10		2	3			1	4	3	15
Lark Sparrow	46	50	35	150	20	x	15	11	2				6	2	2	37
Cassin's Sparrow				5												
Oregon Junco										2						14
Gray-headed Junco			2			1		8		6		2				15
Am. Tree Sparrow																1

Report Number	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Chipping Sparrow	57	77	124	30		x	2	77	4	4	8		8	9	10	292
Clay-c Sparrow	26			400	1	1		1							1	2
Brewer's Sparrow			7		4	x	8	x	4				1	5	1	4
White-crown. Sparrow	9	4	1	30	10	x	7	3	1	2		20	7	15	1	29
Golden-c. Sparrow																2
White-throat.Sparrow	2															
Harris's Sparrow								10								
Fox Sparrow																2
Lincoln's Sparrow															1	
Swamp Sparrow	1												1			
Song Sparrow	3		2			x	2	1	1	1		7	1	2		18
Lapland Longspur	1							12								
Corrections, add:																
Common Loon													1			
Ferruginous Hawk																1
Prairie Falcon																1
Least Sandpiper																2
Bonaparte's Gull																15
Long-eared Owl															5	1
Three-t. Woodpecker																1
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher													1			
Number of Species	119	54	92	94	26	87	90	82	61	92	35	48	72	66	50	136
Observers	2	2	4	1	1	2	2	4	2	7	10	1	4	1	3	17
Party hours	15	6	12	20	10	12	12	10	8	12	4	4	12	6	3	45

Corrections, May 12 add:
American Goldeneye 2
Red-breast. Merganser 6
Virginia's Warbler 1
Baird's Sparrow 3

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THE WARBLERS OF NORTH AMERICA

A new book, THE WARBLERS OF NORTH AMERICA, by Ludlow Griscom, Alexander Sprunt and twenty other ornithologists, has been announced, to be published October 1. The price has been advanced to $15.00 from the original price of $12.50, but it can be obtained for $10.00 if ordered before September 30, 1957. Orders will be taken by the Service Department of the National Audubon Society, 1130 Fifth Avenue, New York, 28, New York.

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CALENDAR FOR SEPTEMBER 1957

September

15	(Sun.)	7 AM	Trip to Red Rocks and Genesee Mountain Parks. Donald Thatcher, leader (GL5-7479). Meet at Colfax and Sheridan Blvds. ½ day. Transportation .50¢.
22	(Sun.)	7 AM	Trip to Barr Lake and vicinity. John Chapin, leader (SK6-2200) Meet at Denver Museum of Natural History parking lot (Colorado & Montview Blvds.) ½ day. Transp. .50¢
24	(Tues)	8 PM	Regular Meeting. Denver Museum of Natural History
28	(Sat.)	10 AM	Trip to Marston and Bowles Lakes. Ruth Wheeler, leader (GL5-3924). Meet at Colfax and Sheridan Blvd. Bring lunch. Transp. .50¢

Please call leader before trips, if possible.
Transportation by private cars. Amounts above are suggested for those riding with others.

COLORADO BIRD NOTES

Bulletin of the Colorado Bird Club

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A. O. U. CHECK-LIST REVISION

by Donald M. Thatcher

The "Check-list of North American Birds" of the American Ornithologists' Union is the authority for the classification and nomenclature of all wild birds known in North America, north of Mexico (it covers Baja California, part of Mexico), including Bermuda and Greenland. The Check-list was published first in 1886 and was revised in 1895, 1910, 1931, and 1957, the last revision having just been received. While the second edition (1895) did little more than bring the list up-to-date, with the usual quota of changes in the scientific nomenclature (Latin-Greek names) mostly for priority, the last three editions involved major changes in presentation or arrangement.

For those not familiar with the scientific classification (taxonomy) of living things, the following may be of interest at this point: All living things have been placed in one or the other of two kingdoms: Plant and Animal. Each of these kingdoms is then divided into its major divisions, called phyla (singular, phylum), which are further subdivided into classes, orders, families, genera (singular, genus) and species ("Species" is both singular and plural). Many larger groups have also intermediate subdivisions, prefixed "sub-" or "super-", as "suborder" and "superfamily". This is not as confusing as it appears if one simply considers and remembers the five terms: class, order, family, genus, and species. The intermediates generally should be ignored, including even the often misused "subspecies". As an example, the complete classification of the common American race of the Peregrine Falcon (formerly Duck Hawk) is as follows: phylum, Chordata (having spinal cord); subphylum, Vertebrata (with backbone); class, Aves (birds); subclass, Neornithes (true birds); superorder, Neognathae (typical birds); order, Falconiformes (vultures, hawks, falcons); suborder, Falcones (secretary birds, hawks, falcons); superfamily, Falconoides (hawks, falcons and allies); family, Falconidae (caracaras and falcons); subfamily, Falconinae (falcons); genus, Falco (falcon); subgenus, Rhynchodon(?-refers to beak); species, peregrinus (wandering); and subspecies, anatum (pertaining to ducks). Only the generic and specific Falco peregrinus are necessary to designate the species, with the addition of the subspecific term anatum or other, if the race of the individual bird or birds under consideration is known.

In the first two editions of the Check-list, the scientific names of the originally-described species were treated binomially, as Troglodytes aedon (House Wren), even though subsequent recognition of a subspecies had made the original bird also subspecific. At the same time, the later-described subspecies were listed trinomially, as Troglodytes aedon azteeus (Western House Wren), no subspecific designation being attached to the original, in this case Eastern, bird. Thus, in keeping with this presentation, many authors have used such statements as "the Western House Wren is a subspecies of the Eastern House Wren" and so developed an erroneous idea of the meaning of the subspecies, although it might as correctly (and as incorrectly) have been stated that the Eastern bird was a subspecies of the Western, or of any other race of that species. The major innovation in the third (1910) edition was the assignment of trinomial scientific names for all subspecies, in recognition of the complete equality of all the subspecies within one species. The Eastern House Wren then became Troglodytes aedon aedon. At that time there was considerable inconsistency. For instance, Eaton's "Birds of New York" Part I (1910), which follows the second (1895) edition of the Check-list, treats the two subspecies of the Snow Goose as Chen hyperborea hyperborea and Chen hyperborea nivalis (properly, apparently in anticipation of the 1910 revision), while the Canada Goose was still Branta canadensis and Branta canadensis hutchinsi. (Part II-1914-using the third revision of the Check-list, treats all subspecies trinomially.)

The fourth edition (1931) involved the most important change of all. A complete revision and rearrangement was made of the orders and their subdivisions. The seventeen orders of North American birds of the earlier Check-list were split, recombined and shuffled into a new series of twenty, based more upon their degree of evolution from the primative than upon the more superficial structural similiarities resulting from similar breeding habits, which were the basis for much of the original arrangement. For example, the original order Raptores (vultures, hawks and owls) was divided into two new orders: Falconiformes (vultures and hawks) and Strigiformes (owls), widely separated in the new arrangement. In some cases, families were transferred from one order to another in recognition of their closer evolutionary relationship to the members of their new orders than to those of the old. The family of the auks and their relatives, part of the lowest order, of grebes, loons and auks, and also the next higher (second) order, that of gulls, terns and jaegers, were both advanced to, and combined with, the ninth order, that of the shorebirds. Within the largest order, the Passeres, or perching birds, there was considerable rearrangement of families, most noticeable of which perhaps is that of the family of finches, moved to highest (last) position and practically trading places with the thrush family, which formerly held that place. Some of us whose early bird study was accomplished with such helps as Reed's "Guides" and Chapman's "Handbook", which followed the earlier arrangement, have never entirely mastered this new sequence of orders and families.

The recent fifth edition, with which we are now most concerned, differs from the fourth but little, from the standpoint of the professional ornithologist. Its major change affects mainly the amateur who ordinarily identifies birds by their common or vernacular names only. As many of the binomial names given to subspecies have given no hint as to the species involved and of the relationship of subspecies to each other, a few years ago it was proposed that all subspecies be named trinomially in the vernacular, comparable to the trinomial method in use for the scientific names. Thus, for example, the birds known as Eastern Winter Wren, Aleutian Wren, Alaska Wren and Kodiak Wren would become Eastern Winter Wren, Aleutian Winter Wren, Alaska Winter Wren and Kodiak Winter Wren, all readily recognizable of name as being of one and the same species, the Winter Wren. Finally, however, to discourage the questionable and so often erroneous practice of field identification of subspecies, especially uncertain for migrating birds, it was decided to abandon all subspecific vernacular names and to retain the vernacular for the species only (as Winter Wren). All valid subspecies are listed, but under only their trinomial scientific names. Thus many binomial names of subspecies of common usage locally have become obsolete, as Long-crested Jay (Steller's Jay), Rocky Mountain Creeper (Brown Creeper), Batchelder's Woodpecker (Downy Woodpecker), Brewster's Egret (Snowy Egret) and Gambel's Sparrow (White-crowned Sparrow). Likewise, all trinomials, such as Mountain Song Sparrow, Western Evening Grosbeak (and many other "Western" subspecies), Audubon's Hermit Thrush and Rocky Mountain Hairy Woodpecker now will be known only binomially, the first term being dropped in each case ("Rocky Mountain" here is one term). Under the new system, the names retaining the term "Western" will be recognized as those of full species, as Western Grebe, Wood Pewee, Meadowlark, Tanager and Flycatcher, to name a few.

There are many exceptions to the binomial rule, many binomials actually consisting of three words and many others of only one. Examples of three-worded "binomials", with parentheses added (here only) to indicate the parts which should have the value of one word are: American (Golden Plover), Great (Horned Owl), Northern (Three-toed Woodpecker), Western (Wood Pewee), Long-billed (Marsh Wren), (Black-throated Gray) Warbler and Black (Rosy Finch). A few names having the value of two terms are: Sora, Killdeer, Dipper, Veery, Catbird, Robin and Poor-will.

While many subspecies were obscure in their relationships to each other, as the several Winter Wrens cited above, another type of confusion was caused by the similarity of the specific names of many distinct species. Take, for example, three difficult owls known as "Screech Owls": The common one (Otus asio), including about 15 subspecies, such as Eastern Screech Owl and Sahuaro Screech Owl, and two others, the Flammulated Screech Owl and the Spotted Screech Owl; these species are now des-

ignated Screech Owl, Flammulated Owl and Whiskered Owl, respectively. Other examples are: Pygmy Owl (five subspecies) and Ferruginous Pygmy Owl, now, respectively, Pygmy Owl and Ferruginous Owl; the two Rough-legged Hawks, formerly American and Ferruginous, now Rough-legged Hawk and Ferruginous Hawk; and the Purple Finches, Eastern and California, the two races of one species, and Cassin's, another species, now Purple Finch and Cassin's Finch.

Numerous other changes, minor in nature, have been made in the newest revision, most of them due to the combining of two or more species into one or to the splitting of others into two or more (recognition of former subspecies as full species). Examples of combining are the Oregon Junco, Scrub Jay, Gray Jay and Rufous-sided Towhee. In the cases of the last three of these, the larger species formed by the combination were given entirely new, descriptive names. Some species which were divided are Red-tailed Hawk (Red-tailed and Harlan's Hawk), Bushtit (Common and Black-eared Bushtits) and Crow (Common and Northwestern Crows). A long overdue change is that of Sage Hen to Sage Grouse.

As the new vernacular names adopted in the revised Check-list will be used in all future publications and in submitting Christmas Counts and other reports to such publications as Audubon Field Notes, it is suggested that the reader revise the names in his Peterson's Guides (Eastern and Western) and Pough's Guides (Eastern Land Birds, Eastern Water Birds and Western) to conform with the following list.

In the left-hand column are the new or revised names. Those in the right-hand column, if in parentheses, are incorrect in Pough and correct in Peterson. The others are incorrect in Peterson, and, in a few cases (indicated *) also in Pough. Some are correct in one of either author's guides and incorrect in the other.

Arctic Loon	Pacific
Red-necked Grebe	Holboell's
Least Grebe	Mexican
Fulmar	Pacific Fulmar
Manx Shearwater	Black-vented (Common)
Pelagic Cormorant	Baird's
Anhinga	Water-turkey
Magnificent Frigatebird	Man-o'-war Bird
Louisiana Heron	(Tri-colored)
White-faced Ibis	White-faced Glossy*
Brant	American Brant
Mexican Duck	New Mexican
American Widgeon	Baldpate
Common Eider	(Eider)
Harlan's Hawk	New species, formerly subsp. of Red-tailed
Red-shouldered Hawk	Red-bellied
Rough-legged Hawk	American Rough-legged
Ferruginous Hawk	Ferruginous Rough-leg (F. Rough-legged H.)
Gray Hawk	Mexican Goshawk
Gray Sea Eagle	(Sea Eagle, White-tailed Sea Eagle)
Marsh Hawk	omit Harrier
Peregrine Falcon	Duck Hawk
Sparrow Hawk	omit Kestrel
Blue Grouse	Dusky-include former Sooty as subspecies
Spruce Grouse	Franklin's Grouse
Greater Prairie Chicken	Prairie Chicken*
Sage Grouse	Sage Hen
Harlequin Quail	Mearn's
Gray Partridge	European or Hungarian (Partridge)
Common Gallinule	Florida
Semipalmated Plover	(Ringed)
Wilson's Plover	Belding's
Common Snipe	Wilson's
Whimbrel	Hudsonian Curlew
Dunlin	Red-backed Sandpiper
Short-billed Dowitcher	Eastern subsp. of Dowitcher*
Long-billed Dowitcher	Long-billed subsp. of Dowitcher*
Red-legged Kittiwake	Pacific K.; Kittiwake*
Common Murre	California; (Murre)
Great Horned Owl	Horned
Whiskered Owl	Spotted Screech
Flammulated Owl	Flammulated Screech
Ferruginous Owl	Ferruginous Pygmy
Boreal Owl	Richardson's
Lesser Nighthawk	Texas (Trilling)
Green Kingfisher	Texas
Yellow-shafted Flicker	Northern Flicker; Flicker
Acorn Woodpecker	California
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Red-naped, Red-breasted; (Common)
Ladder-backed Woodpecker	(Mexican)
Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker	Artic; (Black-backed)
Northern Three-toed Woodpecker	Three-toed*; American Three-toed
Rose-throated Becard	Xantus'

Tropical Kingbird	Couch's (Olive-backed)	Yellow-breasted Chat	Long-tailed
Western Kingbird	Arkansas	Wilson's Warbler	Pileolated
Kiskadee Flycatcher	Derby	House Sparrow	not English
Great Crested Flycatcher	Crested*	Eastern Meadowlark	Meadowlark; Rio Grande
		Redwinged Blackbird	Red-wing; Common Red-wing
Wied's Crested Flycatcher	Mexican Crested; (Mexican; Wied's)	Tricolored Blackbird	Tricolored Red-wing
Traill's Flycatcher	Alder*	Black-headed Oriole	Audubon's
Dusky Flycatcher	Wright's	Lichtenstein's Oriole	Alta Mira
Eastern Wood Pewee	Wood Pewee; (Eastern Pewee)	Boat-tailed Grackle	Great-tailed
Western Wood Pewee	(Western Pewee)	Common Grackle	Bronzed; Purple*
Cave Swallow	Coahuila Cliff	Brown-headed Cowbird	Common; Eastern
Gray Jay	Canada*; Oregon	Bronzed Cowbird	Red-eyed*
Scrub Jay	Florida; California; Santa Cruz	Summer Tanager	Cooper's
		Cassins Finch	Cassins Purple
Mexican Jay	Arizona	White-collared Seedeater	Sharpe's; (Morellet)
Black-billed Magpie	American	American Goldfinch	Common
Northwestern Crow (caurinus)	new species, from Common Crow	Lesser Goldfinch	Arkansas; Green-backed; (Dark-backed)
Boreal Chickadee	Columbian; Brown-capped*	Olive Sparrow	Texas
		Rufous-sided Towhee	Spotted Towhee; Towh ; Chewink; (Eastern T.)
Black-eared Bushtit	Lloyd's subsp. of Bushtit	Savannah Sparrow	includes Belding's & Large-billed as subsp. (Merritt Island)
Brown Creeper	Creeper		
Dipper	not Water Ouzel	Dusky Seaside Sparrow	
Long-billed Thrasher	Sennett's	Bachman's Sparrow	Pine Woods*
Swainson's Thrush	Russet-backed; Olive-backed*	Black-throated Sparrow	Desert
		Sage Sparrow	includes Bell's S. as subspecies
Veery	Willow Thrush	Oregon Junco	includes Pink-sided as subsp.; (Pink-sided)
Western Bluebird	not Mexican		
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	Western	Gray-headed Junco	includes dorsalis subsp. of Red-backed
Black-tailed Gnatcatcher	Plumbeous		
		Mexican Junco	Red-backed
Water Pipit	American	Lapland Longspur	Alaska
Northern Shrike	Northwestern	Snow Bunting	(Common)
Bell's Vireo	not Least		
Solitary Vireo	Blue-headed*		
Nashville Warbler	Calaveras		
Olive-backed Warbler	Sennett's (Piliayumi)		
Northern Waterthrush	Grinnell's		
Ground-chat	Rio Grande Yellowthroat (Mexican)		

Change "American" to "Common": Egret, Goldeneye, Scoter, Merganser.
Add "American": Coot, Golden Plover, Woodcock, Avocet, Flamingo.
Add "Common": Nighthawk (C. minor), Raven (C. corax), Crow (C. brachyrhynchos), Bushtit (P. minimus), Redpoll (A. flammous).
Omit parts in parentheses (Peterson): (California) Brown Pelican; (Brewster's) Snowy Egret; (Anthony's) Green Heron; (Lesser) Snow Goose; Greater and Lesser Scaup (Duck); (Mexican) Black Hawk; (Audubon's) Caracara; (Eastern) Pigeon Hawk (or Merlin); (Merriam's) Turkey; (California) Clapper and Black Rails; (Stephen's) Whip-poor-will; (Nuttall's) Poor-will; (Northern) Cliff Swallow; (American) Robin; (Greenland) Wheatear; (California) Purple Finch; (Canadian) Pine Grosbeak; House Finch (or Linnet).
Omit "Western" or "Eastern" (Peterson); Brown Pelican; Green Heron; Least Bittern; Glossy Ibis; Harlequin Duck; Snowy Plover; Solitary Sandpiper; Willet; Belted Kingfisher; House and Winter Wrens; Mockingbird; Golden-crowned and Ruby-crowned Kinglets; Warbling Vireo; Blue Grosbeak; Painted Bunting; Evening Grosbeak; Purple Finch; Grasshopper, Lark, Tree, Field and Chipping Sparrows.
Spellings of some have been revised: Shoveler, MacGillivray's Warbler (capital G), Pigmy Nuthatch (Pygmy Owl not changed). The "s" following the apostrophe after s has been dropped from the names Harris', Ross', Lewis', etc. Many hyphens were dropped, and a few added, too many to list here.

WELDONA NOTES

by Howard Rollin

August 1, 1957 - July continued the fine, non-destructive rains here, a total of just 3 inches being recorded. Temperatures and humidity continued above normal. All plant growth has been excessive, the hills and plains have remained green and, in spite of heavy weed growth, the grass is still green and growing.

Nearly all of the summer resident birds have had a most successful nesting period; only the Horned Larks seem to have had trouble with their nestings, especially the early spring one. Some species have continued to be scarce or entirely absent.

September 1 - The nearly perfect rains persisted through August. Various places to the south and southeast received severe hail damage and floods, but there were none of those in this vicinity. Temperatures dropped somewhat in August and the nights have been cooler, while the humidity has decreased to nearly normal. 1.8 inches of rain were recorded in August.

Birds are on the move at this time, and extraordinary numbers of Mourning Doves, Clay-colored, Brewer's, and Lark Sparrows and Lark Buntings are about; the last two in most years remain in very small numbers by September 1. The Doves, Lark Buntings and Lark Sparrows raised a bumper crop of young and some are just now on the wing.

October 1 - The past month turned dry, in contrast to the recent spring and early summer, and only a few tenths inch of moisture were recorded. Extreme coolness during the first part brought in large numbers of migrants, especially Clay-colored and Vesper Sparrows and more than the usual numbers of Brewer's Sparrows. Warblers also were more common than usual; Audubon's was unusually common and a dozen or more could be seen at one time, whereas usually only three or four occur in a season. Fall migrants are here in numbers at this time and many species are yet to be recorded.

Following are notes on occurrences over the last three months:

Great Blue Heron - 3 7/2 only record here; 1 near Ft. Morgan 7/31
Green-winged Teal - 20 9/13, the first seen here this year
Red-tailed Hawk - more common than usual, seen almost daily along roads (July); none in August; 1 9/11 & 28
Swainson's Hawk - unusually few
Golden Eagle - scarce, a few seen; more common by 9/20
Marsh Hawk - uncommon; increased in late July
American Sparrow Hawk - uncommon; increased late July; became common 8/16 through September (2 8/26)
Ring-necked Pheasant - scarce, but increasing (July)
Sandhill Crane - 7 9/18 (about 2 weeks early)
Killdeer - uncommon, a few along the creek; 1 9/3 & 23; 3 9/19 near Ft. Morgan
Sandpipers - one or two heard, August, not identified
Franklin's Gull - 25 (first) 8/6, 10 8/20, 3 8/27 near Ft. Morgan (thousands in 1956 as early as 7/17); first here, 25-30 circling high 9/28; 500 near Ft. Morgan9/28
Black Tern - 4 8/6 Ft. Morgan
Mourning Dove - abundant, with many young (July); small numbers (September)
Barn Owl - present in canyons; nearby nesting hole in rock weathered away; last seen in August
Horned Owl - common (July)
Common Nighthawk - very numerous this year, last 1 9/3
Red-shafted Flicker - 1 9/16, 21; rare here
Eastern Kingbird - present all summer, unusual; 1 8/25, last 1 9/9
Western Kingbird - very common this year; pair nesting here has at least two young on wing, possibly four (8/1), in spite of a small bull snake which got to the nest; one young killed flying from nest; last 1 9/18

Cassin's Kingbird - first 1 9/22, 23 (rare)
Say's Phoebe - eggs in repaired old nest 7/9; were slow in nesting this year and disturbed by presence of third bird; second brood on wing 8/19; species present 10/1
Empidonax - 1 8/8 (brown above, white below with no yellow); 1 9/24 (Traill's?)
Western Pewee - first 1 8/20, 24; remained until 9/7
OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER - 1 8/31 (first record), 1 9/10
Horned Lark - common (July & August); July nestings successful
Rough-winged Swallow - continues more common than usual (July, August); most seen, 20 7/30
Cliff Swallow - hundreds north of Ft. Morgan (July); none here
Barn Swallow - 1 7/28, 4 8/31, 6 9/19; 3 9/11 Ft. Morgan
Black-billed Magpie - abundant young (July); common (August)
American Crow - 5 9/16 (Weldona town)
Rock Wren - common, no young seen (present 10/1)
House Wren - 1 9/5 & 26 (rare migrant here)
Mockingbird - did not nest until late July (young in nest 8/1); built several nests and abandoned, with eggs; still feeding young 9/1; last seen 9/12
Brown Thrasher - raised one young (July) (2nd nesting here in 45 years); last seen 9/30 (1st since 9/14)
Sage Thrasher - 1 7/17 (1st since 5/17); next 3 8/19, remaining; 15 8/30, common 9/19 (present 10/1)
Hermit Thrush - 1st 1 9/25
Ruby-crowned Kinglet - 1st 1 9/29
Loggerhead Shrike - very few until common 8/16 (and to 10/1)
Common Starling - none since about 7/1; common few miles south
Vireo (Unidentified) - 1 8/6
Orange-crowned Warbler - 1st 1 9/23, 30 (very rare)
Audubon's Warbler - 1st 2 9/22, 23; common 9/24-29
NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH - 1 9/12 (first record)
Pileolated Warbler - 1st 1 8/24, 29 to 9/1; 1 9/5-17
American Redstart - 1 9/10 (first since 1951)
House Sparrow - none in July; 1 8/6, 8/10-20; occasional (10/1)
Western Meadowlark - common, young plentiful (July & August)
Yellow-headed Blackbird - 1st of year 1 9/1, occasional to 9/14
Red-winged Blackbird - 8 8/19, 1st since spring
Bullock's Oriole - nested, failure (July); last 8/20
Brewer's Blackbird - 1st 1 9/18, 19; few remain 10/1
Brown-headed Cowbird - 1st young 7/17, moving south in small numbers 7/18; few present 8/1; last 8/14
Blue Grosbeak - still singing and last seen 8/7, doubtless still here along the creek (9/1)
American Goldfinch - first since May, 9/25 (2)
Green-tailed Towhee - first 1 9/15, 16
Lark Bunting - adults and young started flocking 7/13; hundreds working south 7/28, common along fences and roads (9/1); last 9/14
Vesper Sparrow - first 24 9/7; very common 9/17; still present 10/1
Lark Sparrow - common, numerous young 8/1, common 9/1, last 9/7
Oregon Junco - (Montana) first 1 9/15 & 24; present 10/1; (Pink-sided) first 1 9/27
Clay-colored Sparrow - first 8/25, common 8/28, very common since 9/17
Brewer's Sparrow - common, still singing 8/1; common as of 9/1, last 9/16
White-crowned Sparrow - first 6 9/24, 25; present 10/1
Song Sparrow - first 1 9/25
McCown's Longspur - first 1 9/9, 11; very few present 10/1

Note-The above Weldona Notes were compiled and typed before receipt of the revised Check-list, hence the names may not agree with the changes listed on pages 3 and 4. The rest of the bulletin follows the new list.

November 1 - There was much bird activity during the past month, with some quite spectacular migration. The ducks, which have been so scarce the last few years, have shown quite an upsurge in numbers as well as in species. The Sandhill Crane was unusually numerous this fall, and the Lapland Longspur was more common than usual. A few species were absent or in very small numbers.

The weather mostly was quite dry, only a few tenths of an inch of precipitation were recorded, though there were many cloudy and misty days. The last week or so was warm and very pleasant.

The following notes bring bird activity up-to-date:

Mallard - 12 10/19, 20; 250-300 10/30 to present
Green-winged Teal - 20 10/19, 12 10/24, to present
Redhead - 8 10/20
Red-tailed Hawk - present, very few
Swainson's Hawk - last 10/3
Rough-leg Hawk - first 2 10/30, 31
Golden Eagle - a few
Marsh Hawk - present in small numbers
Pigeon Hawk - 1 10/10, very rare
Sparrow Hawk - last 10/10
Pheasant - remains absent
Sandhill Crane - 4-5000 10/4; unknown number passed in night 10/15; 8-10,000 10/16; 1500-2000 10/17; in the morning they were scarcely above the ground; those passing in the afternoon were 7-8000 feet high, visible with the naked eye as specks, although their trumpeting could be clearly heard. An estimate of the numbers was arrived at by counting certain skeins; 10/16, skein after skein passed for hours late into the evening. The last was 10/22, when unknown numbers passed in the night
Killdeer - last 10/25
Franklin's Gull - 10/17 gulls were everywhere and the number could not be determined. They could be seen far up and down the Wildcat Creek against the cloud shadows on the hills. In the afternoon, they put on an amazing display when thousands started circling counter clockwise, like leaves in a whirlwind, several thousand feet high, and about a city block square in diameter. After a time they would spread out into a lower disk-like formation only to tighten up again into a smaller formation. They were circling around with speed and did not seem to be feeding. A few were seen near Fort Morgan 10/24; last here 10/27.
Mourning Dove - last 10/8
Belted Kingfisher - 1 10/19 near Fort Morgan
Red-shafted Flicker - present in small numbers
Say's Phoebe - last, 10/4
Horned Lark - continue in good numbers
Barn Swallow - last, 1 10/4
Blue Jay - common in Fort Morgan
Common Crow - 2 10/16 and 10/27; continue
Black-billed Magpie - common
Rock Wren - last, 10/24
Sage Thrasher - last, 10/10
Brown Thrasher - last, 10/2
Robin - first, 6 10/10, and 1 10/29
Townsend's Solitaire - first, 1 10/23; rare this year
Northern Shrike - first, 1 10/27; continue
Loggerhead Shrike - last, 10/4
Starling - 7 10/15; most seen here, 33 10/30; they come and go
Audubon's Warbler - last, 10/22; unusually common this year; still common in Fort Morgan. Some unusual, unidentified warblers heard.
House Sparrow - comes and goes in varying numbers.
Western Meadowlarks - very common
Yellow-headed Blackbird - last, 1 10/5
Redwinged Blackbird - first, 10/26; one or two remain

Brewer's Blackbird - present
Amer. Goldfinch - 2 10/15, 1 10/25, 11 10/27, remain
Vesper Sparrow - last 10/18
Oregon Junco - Pink-sided, Montana, and Shufeldt's - present in small numbers.
Gray-headed Junco - 1 10/23; very rare fall migrant
Tree Sparrow - first, 10 10/27, still present
Chipping Sparrow - first, 3 10/10,11; 1 or 2 10/14; a rare migrant this fall
White-crowned Sparrow - last, 10/28
McCown's Longspur - first, 10 10/4,5, very common 10/14, and now quite common.

Notes from Durango

October 6, 1957. Where are the birds? Few species have been seen and none in anything like the usual numbers.

There was only a trace of precipitation in September and temperatures were above normal. There have been light frosts in spots in the valley but flowers are blooming, shrubs are green and trees are just now beginning to show some autumn color. Today there were some light, local showers.

On September 12 a Red-eyed Vireo was found dead. There was nothing about the body to indicate the cause of death. It was found on the black-top under the windows on the second floor of a school building. It was a typical specimen of this species except it measured nearer 6 inches than 6½ inches and the yellow under the wing and under tail coverts was a bit on the dull side. I have no previous record of this species here.

On September 21 these were seen along the Animas River:
Turkey Vulture - 1; Hairy Woodpecker - 1; Wood Pewee- 1; Flycatcher, unidentified; Black-billed Magpie; Pinon Jay; Mountain Chickadee - 1; White-breasted Nuthatch - 1 Sage Thrashor - 1; Robin 75-100;Cedar Waxwing - 7; Orange-crowned Warbler -1; Audubon's Warbler - 10-15; Wilson's Warbler - 6; Western Tanager - 5; Black-headed Grosbeak - 1; American Goldfinch - several; Evening Grosbeak - 200 or more (below what I consider the normal number); Chipping Sparrow - about 25; Brewer's Sparrow -3; there should have been Virginia's and McGillivray's Warblers too.

In the same area on September 27 these were found:
Sparrow Hawk - 1; Blackbilled Magpie - 1; Robin - about 25; Townsend's Solitaire - 2; Audubon's Warbler - 1; McGillivray's Warbler - 1; Brewer's Blackbird - 3; Evening Grosbeak - 40-50; Pine Siskin - flock(uncounted); Lark Sparrow - 1; Chipping Sparrow - 5-6; Brewer's Sparrow - 1; White-crowned Sparrow - 10(many more across river in underbrush).

On September 29 on a drive up the valley to Molas Pass saw only two signs of bird life. A flock of 10-12 unidentified sparrows, too far away for positive identification, and 2 accipiters glimpsed as they were disappearing over a ridge. Before making the drive these were found in the immediate vicinity: Yellow-bellied Sapsucker - 1, Red-shafted Flicker - 1, Scrub Jay - 1, and Audubon's Warbler -10-12

Note the absence of bluebirds. One was seen today, a Mountain female.

These lists will indicate the over-all picture of lack of birds in this area.

Oppie Reames.

PRESIDENT'S OPEN HOUSE

Members and friends of the Colorado Bird Club are hereby invited to the President's Open House, January 1, 1958 at 4 to 7 P.M., at 2916 Perry Street, Denver.

BIRDS OF THE SEASON

by Donald M. Thatcher

The fall migration, like that of last spring, has been generally later than usual. Probably the most unusual feature was the remarkable flight of Sandhill Cranes. There are the usual number of reports of new or rare species. Following are listed outstanding early and late migration dates and some unusual numbers and occurrences. Contributors: Mrs. Venola Bivans, Irving Cantor (visitor), Catherine Crone, John & Margaret Douglass, John Flavin, Mrs. John Lett, L. Jack Lyon, Thompson Marsh, R. J. Niedrach, Donald Thatcher, Jean & Parnell White, Boulder Bird Club (BBC).

Common Loon - 2 8/10 (J&PW), 1 10/27 (Club trip) Marston Lake, Denver
Western Grebe - 100 (some carrying young on backs) 8/9 Latham Reservoir, LaSalle (Mrs. JL)
Horned Grebe - 107 10/12 Timnath (J&MD); last, 2 11/5 SW of Denver (J&PW)
Double-crested Cormorant - last, 2 10/12 Timnath (J&MD)
Snowy Egret - 15 8/9, 9 10/10 LaSalle (Mrs. JL); 177 10/12 Timnath (J&MD)
Green Heron - 1 9/8-14 S. Platte River, Littleton (J&PW); 1 10/26 Bowles Lake, Denver (IC)
American Bittern - 1 10/28&31 Cherry Hills (RJN)
Ruddy Duck - adult with 6 young 8/9 LaSalle (Mrs. JL)
Swainson's Hawk - 1 9/29 Platteville (Mrs.JL) (last)
Pigeon Hawk - 1 9/5 Platteville (Mrs.JL) (Mrs. JL)
Sparrow Hawk - 21 6/30, 27 9/8 & 9/29, 4 10/6 Boulder Co. (CC); 41 9/22 Platteville
Sandhill Crane - 3 9/24 Yuma Co. (LJL); 1000 (2 flocks) 10/1, decreased to 100 10/7, 20,000 est. 10/11, 325 10/16, 18 10/17 Platteville (Mrs.JL); flocks 10/2-16, 250 10/13 largest Boulder, many at Fort Lupton (BBC); 650 10/12 Timnath (J&MD); 2 flocks over Denver 10/14 (JF,DT); 10/4-17 Weldona (see Weldona Notes, page 7)
Semipalmated Plover - 2 9/22 LaSalle (Mrs.JL)
Solitary Sandpiper - 4 8/16 Platteville (mrs.JL); 1 9/1 Boulder Co. (CC)
Willet - 4 8/31 - Henry's Lake (SW of Denver) (J&PW)
Lesser Yellowlegs - 10 8/9 LaSalle (Mrs. JL); --- 1 10/31 Marston Lake (J&PW)
Greater Yellowlegs - 1 10/9, 15 Platteville (Mrs.JL)
Pectoral Sandpiper - 1 10/2 Platteville (Mrs.JL); 1 10/5 Denver (TM)
Marbled Godwit - 1 8/9 LaSalle (Mrs.JL)
Baird's Sandpiper - first, 6 8/16 Platteville (Mrs.JL)
Least Sandpiper - first, 4 8/16 Platteville (Mrs.JL)
Sanderling - 5 10/10 LaSalle (Mrs. JL); 2 10/12 Timnath (J&MD)
Northern Phalarope - 8 10/12 Ft. Collins (J&MD)
Glaucous Gull - 1 9/6 (no details) LaSalle (Mrs.JL)
California Gull - 3 8/10 near Littleton (J&PW); 4 10/10 LaSalle (Mrs.JL)
Franklin's Gull - 500 (first) 7/28, 1500 9/1, 175 9/29, none 10/6 Boulder Co. (CC); 20,000 est. 8/10 (J&PW), several thousand 10/27 (Club trip) Marston Lake
Forster's Tern - many 8/9 LaSalle (Mrs.JL)
Band-tailed Pigeon - 25 10/12 Sedalia (Club trip)
Mourning Dove - 6 11/9 Platteville (Mrs.JL); 23 11/12 Denver (TM)
Common Nighthawk - last: 1 9/8 Platteville (Mrs. JL), 1 9/27 SE Denver (TM)
Broad-tailed Hummingbird - last, 1 9/16 Denver (TM)
Lewis' Woodpecker - 7 10/12 Sedalia (Club trip)
Western Kingbird - last, 1 9/20 Denver (TM)
Eastern Phoebe - 1 6/9 Boulder Co. (CC)
Say's Phoebe - last, 1 10/27 Marston Lake (Club trip)
Western Wood Pewee - last: 1 9/2 Platteville (Mrs.JL), 10/8 Boulder (BBC)
Bank Swallow - 20 8/8, 80 8/10 Marston Lake (J&PW); 200 10/2, 5 10/9 Plattev. (MrsJL)
Rough-winged Swallow - 50 8/8, 75 8/10 near Littleton (J&PW)
Barn Swallow - 75 9/19 9probable height of migration), 10 9/20 Denver Federal Center (DT); 2 10/6 Boulder Co. (CC)
House Wren - late, 1 10/6 Boulder Co. (CC)
Short-billed Marsh Wren - pair (no details) 8/9 Latham Res., LaSalle (MrsJL)

Catbird - last, 10/18 Boulder (BBC)
Brown Thrasher - last, 2 9/5 Platteville (MrsJL)
GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH - 1 May 20 Boulder (VB) Another reported in vicinity at about same time by Miss Olwen Williams. This species is not on the Colorado list, but is reported by A.O.U. as having occurred as near as Laramie and Cheyenne, Wyo.
Yellow Warbler - last, 3 9/29 Boulder Co. (CC)
Myrtle Warbler - 2 9/29 Boulder Co. (CC)
Audubon's Warbler - 3 11/9 Denver (DT)
Yellowthroat - 3 10/6 Boulder Co. (CC)
Wilson's Warbler - 1 9/11,14 Denver (TM)
Yellow-headed Blackbird - 29 9/22 LaSalle (MrsJL)
Bullock's Oriole - last Denver report, 1 7/29 Fed. Ctr. (DT); 1 9/13 (late) Platteville (MrsJL)
Common Grackle - 52 10/6 Boulder Co. (CC)
Western Tanager - 1 10/19 Denver (TM) (last)
Evening Grosbeak - 1 10/1 Denver (DT); flock 75-100 10/29 near Boulder (VB)
Lesser Goldfinch - flock 13 10/29 Den. Fed. Ctr. (DT)

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CHRISTMAS COUNTS

Our two Christmas Counts are planned for the areas covered in previous years. The low-altitude count will be made Saturday, December 21, in the area immediately southwest of Denver, and the high-altitude one December 28, in the vicinity of Idaho Springs and Georgetown.

Following are the sections for the two Counts and their proposed leaders:
Low-altitude Count--
1. Red Rocks Park, Morrison, Bear Creek up to Little Park at Idledale. Donald Thatcher (GL5-7479).
2. Bax and Willow Springs Ranches, Turkey Creek from foothills to junction with Bear Creek, Bear Creek up to Morrison, Soda Lakes. Ruth Wheeler (GL5-3924)
3. Bear Creek Valleyfrom Turkey Creek east to Bear Creek Road, Bear Creek Road north to Jewell Ave. and ponds and marshes in that area. Sadie Morrison (MA3-0840)
4. Indian Hills, Tiny Town, Little Turkey Creek, Federal Correction Institute pond, Bear Creek east fromBear Creek Road to Sheridan Blvd. John Chapin (SK6-2200)
5. Ken Caryl Ranch and Marston, Bowles, Tule and Patrick Lakes. John Flavin (SK6-1744)
6. Deer Creek from Tiny town to Littleton-Waterton road. Robert Glover (PE3-8757)
7. Littleton and Nearby South Platte River. Mr. & Mrs. T.L.Dement (AC2-5003)
8. S. Platte River near Wolhurst and junctions with Deer and Plum Creeks, and up Plum Creek. Thompson Marsh (FR7-5380)
9. Waterton and S. Platte River avove and below. Ferd Kleinschnitz (EVergreen 041-R5) and James Humphrey (GR7-3890)

High-altitude Count--
1. Full River Road and St. Mary's Glacier. John Flavin, Thompson Marsh.
2. Chicago Creek and Echo Lake. John Chapin
3. Georgetown and Silver Plume. Donald Thatcher, Ferd Kleinschnitz
4. Berthoud Pass and vicinity. (open)
5. Idaho Springs and area south. Sadie Morrison
6. Virginia Canyon road, Idaho Springs to Central City. (open)

All members and friends are urged to participate in these counts. Please call theleader for the section desired, or call John Chapin or Donald Thatcher for assignment. Following the December 21 count, the participants are invited to the Thatchers', 2916 Perry St., Denver, at dark, for count summary and a snack.

All those making Christmas Counts in Colorado are invited to submit copies to us for publication in the January COLORADO BIRD NOTES. Counts of reasonable duration, but of less than the 8 hours prescribed by Audubon Field Notes, will be welcome.

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PERSONALS

We are sorry to learn of the passing away of A. Lang Baily in early October. Lang was Vice President of this Club in 1952-3, and a most helpful and active member, until he left the Denver Museum of Natural History for a position with the Davenport (Iowa) Public Museum, of which he was about to be made Director. Our sympathy goes to his family.

Those of us who have birded at Bonny Dam have lost a good friend, Bob Poley, of the Colorado Game and Fish Department, who lost his life in an accident at Bonny in mid-October.

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CORRECTIONS, this issue:
Page 2, 1st paragraph, 6th line: read "similar feeding Habits".
2nd paragraph, 10th line: read "recognizable by name".
4th paragraph, 4th line: read "different owls".
Page 4, 2nd column, 4th from bottom: spell Pitiayumi.
3rd & 4th columns: add apostrophe to Cassin's.

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CALENDAR FOR NOVEMBER - DECEMBER - JANUARY

Nov. 26 (Tues.) 8 PM Regular meeting. Showing of bird slides by members. Bring your slides! Also, identification of winter birds, as time permits. Bird Room, Denver Museum of Natural History. (Use north, employees' entrance)
Dec. 1 (Sun.) 1:30 PM Field trip to Marston Lake and vicinity. Parnell & Jean White, leaders (WE6-0606). Meet S. Federal and W. Florida
Dec. 7-8 and 14-15 Weekends for scouting Christmas Count territories.
Dec. 21 (Sat.) Low-altitude Christmas Count. (See page 10)
Dec. 24 (Tues.) Christmas Eve - no meeting
Dec. 28 (Sat.) High-altitude Christmas Count (See page 10)
Jan. 1 (Wed.) 4-7 PM President's Open House. (See page 8)

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To the several members who have inquired about not receiving "Colorado Bird Notes" since the May issue, which should have been headed "May through September", and especially those who thought they were in arrears and sent dues -- you have not missed any Notes! We have been off schedule several months, but hope to have recovered as of now. We can use more leading articles on any phase of birding, also your reports of trips and other observations.

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Madge Olson reports a pair of Bleeding-heart Pigeons which appeared at a feeder at Estes Park and caused considerable excitement. This species is a native of the Philippines, remarkable for the realistic appearance of its "wound". It is easily raised in captivity and this pair is undoubtedly escaped pets.